

Practitioners Statement

Home

Stephanie Antolis

I wanted to produce a piece to sentimentalize the home and capture this familiar environment, as I believe that the importance of home is often overlooked. Growing up in an unstable environment, home hasn't always been a pleasant place to me. Since moving out at the age of sixteen, and in with a family I have always been close with, my perception of what home is has significantly changed. I now think of home as a welcoming, safe and calming environment. My room, in particular, is the place which is most comforting to me.

My piece depicts a soft scene of my bedroom in cool hues which instantly sparks feelings of stillness, amplified by my expression and style. I chose to use oil paints as they're incredibly flexible. Their blendability was also important to maintain a soft, subtle finish.

I studied a variety of artists who I felt evoked feelings of security and familiarity in me. Henri Matisse painted vivid expressionistic depictions of scenes around his home. His praise of the everyday is what initially inspired me to paint my own home. Upon trialling his style in strong tones of bright hues I found that most of his work evoked a sense of reminiscent joy, as opposed to the grounding and comfortable feelings I wanted to communicate. However, his use of pairing contrasting colours aided my decision to depict my room with walls of blue and a grounding floral bedspread of deep and earthy red tones.

Peter van Dyck, a contemporary realist artist, paints everyday scenes in oil. His work portraying his own apartment with soft stokes and dramatic light appealed to me most. His soft and rather nostalgic depiction of his own house inspired me to see my own surroundings through his eyes. This is when I saw a scene from my room, with light seeping through the sides of the blind, that I felt the same feelings of serene familiarity and viewing some of his work.

It was important to me that the same serene and calm feeling I experience when I'm in my bedroom is seamlessly translated upon viewing. However, upon speaking to different people about what home means to them, I realised that everyone may interpret my piece differently. What is comforting and homely for one person, may not be so for the next. I can guide the viewer's interpretation but cannot control it. This led me to realise that I purely wanted to produce something which further explores and expresses my own representation of home without the concern of the viewer's interpretation.

Home is an extension of an internal part of me which seeks refuge, stability and solitude in certain spaces outside of my own mind. The piece encapsulates the beauty of a simple yet deeply personal space. It is an expression attempting to achieve self-fulfilment, as well as a seemingly minimalistic representation of a much deeper exploration of oneself.