

Practitioner's Statement

Lottery of life

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In the initial stages of developing my first "practical", I reflected on my interest in painting portraits. I wanted to explore the concept of the ageing process through facial expressions and portraiture. This led me to investigate and conclude the dramatic contrast between aged people depending on their journey in life. I desired a need to portray how society views class structure through individuals. I wanted people to step back and realise what's really important, not society's perception of how one's life is meant to be and that an individual's financial status is not the only thing that matters.

I gained inspiration from artist Florian Nicole and Mark Powell, two artists that portray the aged look through dark tones and sepia styled art. I admired how both artists used themes to depict an aged appearance, for example Florian Nicole uses newspaper print and Mark Powell uses recycled aged materials such as envelopes. Through extensive research and exploration I wanted to capture the ageing process through my art but wanted to also demonstrate symbolism that reflected financial status.

I analysed my outcomes of experimenting with drawing and painting aged profiles and decided that painting with acrylic medium was a strength. Initially I wanted to depict my message through multiple plaster faces, I felt that this would show attention to detail through close up facial expressions and facial features. After broader exploration, I consolidated that I desired to present my message through painting on multiple canvases. I felt that this would portray contrasts in greater detail rather than just the face itself. I wanted to construct the three canvases with the mutual baby piece in the centre to show equality. The wealthy older woman I mounted higher, and the older man who portrays poverty to be lower. This layout was strategically placed to show the extremes of how society views individuals and make judgements on face value.

Through my media exploration, I decided to create a stronger visual idea of each class structure by considering the background and the use of colours. After some thorough consideration I concluded that I wanted to use the gold imitation leaf to show the wealthy appearance as the colour gold symbolises wealth. To portray poverty I decided to use the black and grey on a crackle medium. The fresh white and cream used in the baby portrays innocence and purity.

To link all panels together I used metal chain to connect each canvas. The chain that links with the baby and the wealthy person is covered in gold to portray wealth. To link the baby to poverty I rusted a chain to convey the rundown look. I relied on symbolism to convey the message of all class structures. The message "The future is all in your hands?" is subliminally written behind the profile of the baby in impasto textured paste to make the viewer step back and think about the message that this artwork is trying to portray.

I believe that I have successfully composed an aesthetically pleasing composition that promotes deeper thought as the viewer analyses its components.