

Practitioner's Statement

Suits

Myles Crump

'Suits' was heavily based around the works of Adam Cullen, an Australian Contemporary artist who depicts animals and beasts that represent and look extremely similar to humans in their stance and positioning. This relationship between man and beast becomes more evident once human items are included to truly reflect specific characters such as Ned Kelly or other people which feature in his work. His work tends to be responding to edgy characters in the world and often reflected on his personal angst with society. The fast and spontaneous use of colour and paintwork in his works were something I admired but I wanted to create a different version on my own interpretation of character studies in a more controlled manner. Here in my piece I used a mixture of paints to create similar effects to that of Adam Cullen and this was a challenge that I explored through reference to his work.

This large canvas painting was created with acrylic paints, acrylic spray and paint markers to combine different mediums. It was originally inspired by the fictional character Tony Montana. This movie crime character from the 1980s is mocked by the caricature representation using animal characteristics. I began to experiment changing Tony Montana's head to that of an aggressive dog as a symbol of his underworld life. As my first character, the positioning of him was important as I wanted it to create a visual narrative that could be read from left to right. I then added a wolf which can be seen as a predator on human kind but have him depicted as a creature hung on a hook, captured and dripping away from life. Next to the wolf on the right appears a deer in a pristine white suit. The deer is not aggressive or corrupt like the other two characters. This is a representation that even fancy people in their business suits can resemble animals more than anyone else in their gentle, non-aggressive and noble form. Each of these beasts interact with one another on the picture plane as representative of different characters in society. Their stylised forms have strong similarities and finishes that link them. I included the old-school radio/boom box stencil to symbolise the urban environment and the time of the setting of the painting. 'Suits' was heavily influenced by Adam Cullen but also took on characteristics of Jasper Knight with his use of poured paint that either emphasised shapes or lines. Here the drips are emphasised in the background. It took on a very different form in the way the animals were drawn with clean lines but the background had large amounts of colour planes and drips like Cullen and Knight. The bright tone of yellow spray paint for the background is broken by white bits shaped from scrunched up newspaper. This breaking up of space in the composition allowed the figurative characters to be stand out more across the canvas with a background that was not overly dominant. Here the characters' position themselves and become the dominant feature of the composition.