

Practitioner's Statement

Citrus

Kate Dicker

This first practical was inspired by the various artist and styles of watercolour I was exploring in my visual study. I discovered the works of Tamara Philips, Abby Diamond and Tilen Ti, they all work intensively with wet in wet techniques and were highly inspiring in their subject matter and this was used as the starting point for the creation of this work. Tilen believes watercolour creates energy. He is also influenced by colour like both Abby and Tamara he love painting animals and tropical birds. He refers to his work as being splashed watercolour. Abby loves how watercolour behaves differently every time you paint with it and she uses a wide range of angular shapes and lines. Typically Tamara uses bright and vibrant colours, with soft overlays, blends and bleeds these colours flow into one another to create magnificent abstract pieces.

The subject focus that formed this piece progressed from my love of texture "Texture refers to the tactile quality of the surface of an art object." I discovered working with rice and salt and wet in wet watercolour by stumbling upon the work of Endre Penovac. I was inspired by the beauty of his soft implied texture in his watermelons and cat paintings where the watercolour just bleeds into the paper to create a shape. Abby, Tamara's and Endre love of the natural world led me to experiment with different natural object. I found Frank Spiro work and some photography of fruits and vegetables. This led me in a new direction to use citrus. They helped me to play with colour and composition. I started experimenting with watercolour, rice and salt, which was used to imitate the texture of the citrus but in an unusual way. My studied artist do not use rice or salt I was inspired by their subject matter.

The aesthetic qualities of this piece show how the various elements and symbolism of art have been utilized to create added depth and meaning (see table below). A dash of tint with a pinch of shade can bring a whole new dimension or emotion to a composition. Thus I also considered the scale of this piece so that the citrus would only be a small element of the abstract background. the negative space was just as important as the positive space. This practical attempted to give the viewer a sense of control over disorder. which what I feel this year has been all about. Thus the title of the work "Gradually Gaining Maturity" reflects the purity of the fruit and its abstract perfection. The citrus contrast with the powerful disconcerting, swirling purple and blue salt created pattern. As well as the tension created between the physical positioning of the citrus and the large expanse of negative space in the background. I wanted to provoke a sense of uneasiness within the viewer.

Citrus: The scent of the delicate flowers, the bright colors of the fruit and the bitter-sweet taste of their juice made them something special.

Purple: A combination of red and blue. The darker shades relate to the refined things of life, creative, witty and civilized.

Blue: has a feeling of expansiveness, soft, soothing, compassionate and caring. We think of the sea and sky.

Rice: rice is symbolic of both long life and prosperity. It is also linked to spiritual health, attainment of knowledge, and purity.

Salt: salt was once very precious it was linked to spiritual purity. In Christianity, salt is a symbol of divine wisdom.