

Practitioner's Statement

Self portrait with birds

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This self portrait acrylic painting was inspired by David Bromley's art style, in the texture, tone and form of his paintings. I looked at David Bromley who creates paintings with textured, vintage looks. By being inspired by his childhood series I particularly focused on his use of bold colours with a blue background underneath the skin tones in my painting. He also uses dark outlines which stand out among the brighter colours, I did not include black lines around the form of the face, to achieve a rough, unfinished look. By adding the charcoal I was able to emphasize the shading as I added the skin tones. When I applied the skin tones I used a dry brushing technique allowing the blue paint to show through in some areas for shading.

I was originally inspired by Choi Mi Kyung's, soft use of markers with pastel colours and only a small amount of dark black. The techniques and colours of the artwork, created a sense of tranquillity, gentleness and peace that I initially wanted to achieve but in trialling her methods I found that the distinct skills needed would take more time to develop than what I had and the medium of markers were not appropriate to create a very large artwork.

There are a few differences between my inspired artists work and mine. The face in my painting is more detailed and in a more realistic style than Bromley's, with the skin containing more varied tones. To achieve the bold lines in the shading on the face I used charcoal instead of paint. Originally, I had planned to add coloured pencil on the face and on the rest of the painting, but after attempting this I realised that due to the texture of the canvas, this was not possible, so I continued with paint instead to achieve that extra detail. With the scale of the painting, the medium and the style this requires anyone looking at the art to stand from a certain distance to look at all the elements working together.

When completing the birds on the wallpaper it took me time to achieve just enough detail. I intended to not make the wallpaper as bright and vibrant as the painting and to not have too much detail. I kept the birds basic and then by adding water to paint I was able to achieve a transparent ink-like texture to paint on the leaves and branches surrounding the birds. This was successful as the birds then looked as though they belonged in the background and the portrait was the main focus.

The birds are the main feature, and I have included a variety of birds using light tones as well as dry brushing to create texture. This self portrait artwork was created to show my love of birds. The style is one that interests me in doing further book illustrative works.