

## Practitioner's Statement

### **Rose**

Brooke Ferguson

When I began to plan what I wanted to do for my second major piece, I was completely lost, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I started by brainstorming different ideas, and then experimenting with a number of different styles, including Postimpressionism, Semiabstract, Abstract and Impressionism.

After experimenting and analysing a number of different art styles, both new and old, I decided that I wanted to work in a semiabstract style, similar to Georgia O'Keeffe. I was influenced by the smooth effect that her paintings have, and how they have the ability to make the viewer feel calm. At the time I had also just received a bunch of flowers as a gift, this was very special to me, so it inspired me to want to represent these flowers in my art.

Throughout the folio I focused on experimenting and trying out a range of new skills. I think that this really helped me to open up my mind to new art styles, and put me out of my art comfort zone. Once I had tested out a range of styles, I decided to go back and look onto the semiabstract style. I began by taking photos of lots of different flowers that I could use as the base for the composition of my final piece.

After I had taken the photos, I looked back on them and chose to focus on a bunch of tiger lilies. There were two main reasons as to why I chose these flowers. The first is because the flowers held sentimental value to me, and I thought that it would be nice to recreate them through artwork, so that the memory could last forever, whereas the flowers only last about 1 week in real life. The second reason as to why I chose these flowers is because of the way they would look when painted. The large, pretty petals, allow you to choose where you want the viewer's eyes to be led. It was also easy to manipulate and place the flowers in certain ways, to evoke feelings of calmness within the viewer.

This piece was very personal to me, the goal wasn't really to solely impress the viewer, but instead it was more for me. Although, I also wanted the viewer to make a connection with the painting and feel a personal, calming feeling when looking at the piece.

The pair of paintings went to plan, and I didn't encounter any major problems, because I believe that I had taken into consideration most things when planning the composition. A problem that I did encounter was when it came to filling in negative space. In the first painting, the reference photo has quite a lot of areas that do not have any petals, at first I was unsure of what to put there, but in the end decided to create new petals to fill in them spaces, and have a painting with no negative space.

A range of techniques were applied, including techniques inspired by O'Keefe, such as having flowers be the subject of my painting, and achieving what appears to be an effortlessly smooth yet sharp finish, that is pleasing for the viewer. I also used intense contrast between almost white pinks, and deep reds to keep the painting looking interesting.

I am planning on having this piece displayed somewhere, in hopes that people can see the painting, and create their own connection and meaning behind it.