

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

Evelyn Wass

Beginning with a focus on the Indian festival of Holi, which celebrates love and colour, I gathered numerous portraits of individuals participating in the festival and began attempting to imitate these portraits with different media. Although it is traditionally an Indian festival, it has spread globally and is internationally recognised and celebrated. In contrast to this, another Indian festival called Diwali (which celebrates light, hope, goodness, and knowledge) is not so widely recognised. I was drawn to the contrast between these two things that originated from such a similar context. I synthesised the idea that both festivals coexisting represents the beauty that is found in both diversity and similarities in human culture. I needed to find a way to recreate all of the photo evidence and examples of Holi and Diwali that I gathered. I conducted lots of experiments based on these Holi photos which used lots of different media, compositions, and combinations of techniques. At the end of the experimentation stage of my folio I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to participate in the 2016 Adelaide Tropiccolour Colour Run (a charity event that was constructed with elements of the Holi festival in mind). From this experience I gathered several photos of diverse individuals that had participated to represent the power of the Holi festival to unite diverse characters and cultures.

I tried out many different processes and combined several techniques and media to determine what I found to be the most effective way of portraying the vibrancy and diversity of the Holi and Diwali festivals. These included graphite, coloured pencils, acrylic paint, and paint makers. My main objective was to find a combination that would adequately reflect the vibrancy of Holi photos. In the end I chose to use paint markers and graphite to complete my portraits. Although the graphite can't portray the colours, I added a striped background to a couple of my portraits which added aesthetic interest and gave the picture a sense of energy and life which I was very pleased with. In the other two of my portraits I utilized the empty background space to incorporate some designs inspired by Diwali candles.

This practical and folio has given me a fantastic opportunity to explore different media and techniques through my theme. I am very pleased with my finished practical. I believe that I have successfully captured the joy and the vibrancy of the Colour Run and taken advantage of the opportunity in my work to represent a lesser known aspect of Indian diversity.