

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

Tilley Wigney

My work consists of a portrait of my stepdad, Greg, painted using water mixable oils.

My work aims to speak of my affection for my Stepdad, but also a reflection of his past and continuing struggles in life, highlighted through my highly detailed and realistic depiction of his face and in particular the expression in his eyes.

Initially I was inspired by a recent tattoo that I designed for my stepdad, which he had tattooed to his wrist. This led me to research tattooing and the use of tattooing in Art. Initially I researched traditional Japanese tattooing and the meaning behind each tattoo. I also investigated traditional Japanese printmaking methods, focusing on the use of line in their art works. Strongly influenced by traditional Japanese artist Utgawa Kuyoshi and contemporary Australian artist Julian Meagher I initially explored the use of ink. I developed an appreciation for the medium and through experimentation refined my skills in order to create a final work, however became fascinated with portraiture in other mediums such as oil paint, oil pastels and caran dache. I started to investigate emotions through portraiture, linking to the meaning behind tattooing and refining my skills in using oil paint. My strengths in drawing were then explored as I planned to draw into my final work with pen.

I also explored Pablo Picassos work and how he conveys a certain expression and emotion through a subjects' face.

Initially I intended to include my Stepdad's tattoos and then developed ideas and designs, based on Japanese motifs which I intended to incorporate on his skin to further exemplify how Greg expresses his own comment on significant events and people involved in his life. However, I felt the portrait was particularly technically strong and well resolved. What I specifically liked was the vulnerability captured in his eyes. Therefore I decided to not include the tattoos on his body, and by not including these, make a bold statement about laying his emotions 'bare'.

I believe exploring portraiture in depth allowed me to refine my skills in order to successfully portray Greg's vulnerability in his facial expressions, particularly his eyes.