

## *Petals of perseverance*

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I was confronted by the many unfortunate experiences with my grandma being admitted into hospital and my uncle passing. These tragedies greatly impacted my family and myself. Whilst this occurred, I had to also face another reality of being a year 12 student where I had to meet assessment deadlines and study for tests. Being a part of a high-demanding family and being quite self-critical of myself, I was faced with immense pressure that led me to a constant state of stress and a desire to escape.

At the beginning of my research, I explored how different artists depicted the emotions of escapism through different mediums. Alyssa Monk's work highlighted realistic portrayal denial where the body language can convey an immediate sense of chaos and exhaustion. Clive Smith's muted colour palette and depiction of confinement elicited a sense of isolation within myself, inspiring me to explore this topic further. I also explored escapist activities including travelling, entertainment and substance abuse. Moreover, I researched depictions of escapism through distortion and surrealism. Fuco Ueda's use of ocean motifs, particularly the piece *Symbiosis*, where the subject is hidden by coral, inspired me to use flowers to frame my composition.

In my idea generation for my practical, I was inspired to do a piece inspired by my mum after recently talking to her about her experiences with escapism. She told me of the adversities she had faced in a time after the Vietnam War that impacted the economy of the country immensely. Furthermore, her dad had recently passed, and she and her siblings were forced to gain multiple jobs to help financially sustain their family and support their mourning mother. My mum had always loved flowers, originally wanting to be a florist, she found solace in them, enabling her to escape from her harsh reality. This grounded me, influencing me to confront my hardships and reminded that I have a hope future ahead of me where I am supported and fortunate.

My final practical is highly symbolic, each flower representing an attribute of my mother. The figure is wearing a traditional Vietnamese dress named an 'Ao Dai' to symbolise our Vietnamese heritage. The gold leaf background contrasts with the smooth finish of the acrylic paint and symbolises triumph, where struggles and success can co-exist within the same composition. Ultimately, I believe that my practical successfully depicts my interpretation of my mother's experience of overcoming her difficulties.