

Technicoloured Perspectives

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As an artist, I am often fascinated with the visual qualities of architecture including proportion, scale, unity, and line. I was motivated to apply visually decorative shapes and patterns to buildings in Adelaide that I find interesting due to their structure and form. More recently I have developed an interest in digital art and the types of opportunities it provides, as a growing artist. Working with Procreate meant it was particularly easy for me to express my thoughts and ideas about architecture. Procreate allowed me to respond to my reference photo directly as I was painting over a picture. This meant I was able to depict every aspect of the building including shadows, light, curves, and lines.

My composition titled, 'Technicolour Perspectives' is a three-dimensional digital painting. The subject matter of my composition was the South Australian Museum. I photographed the exterior corner of this building from a low angle to create a two-point perspective. This is appealing to me as I like how perspectives create a realistic impression of depth. This 1850s building was of interest because it was built using different materials including brick walls contrasting with smooth stone slabs. I was drawn to many aspects of the building including the facades and arches. During my folio, I researched and drew inspiration from both contemporary and post-modern artists, like Henri Matisse and Howard Arkley. Arkley's strong deceptions of Australian suburbia proved inspirational. His application of bold, unrealistic colours created strong and visually pleasing compositions, contrasting well with his popular airbrushing techniques.

I relied on a digital art practice that allowed me to accurately depict architectural buildings considering principles such as proportion and scale. This visual art form was of particular interest as it was an extremely reliable and forgiving process, I thoroughly enjoyed using the many user-friendly features like the liquify tools and colour palette generating options. I utilized the generated colour palette on Procreate to colour my building. Applying the 'Flourish' colour palette meant I was able to create a composition that followed a technicoloured theme, providing the composition with vividly noticeable features and unity. To improve colour distribution, I divided the composition into 8 different sections making it easier deciding where to apply specific colours. In the middle section, I applied blue and then strategically applied orange to harmonise. The result of these harmonising elements gave the composition unity and balance, which I believe was an important artistic element to consider. In Procreate I utilised the 'Mercury' brush tool, this brush was good as it was easy to blend colours together, I would also use the liquify tool in Procreate to emphasize movement throughout the patterns. Another aspect that was helpful was the straight-line tool in Procreate. This tool made it easier for me to draw straight lines which helped the realistic depiction of the building. My decision to employ exaggerated colours throughout the entirety of the composition relates to Henri Matisse's fauvist practice. I was largely inspired by Matisse's 'Open Window' for how to compose my subject matter with unrealistic colours. My idea to make the composition three-dimensional was inspired by sculptural artist Marchal Mithouard. I added this 3-dimensional element as I believed the final perception of the Practitioner's Statement Procreate illustration was flat and lacked dimension, therefore I utilised materials such as foam boards and gel medium to create 3-dimensional pieces of my composition.

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The goal for my artwork was to create a visually pleasing composition over the top of a real building. This is a blending of two ideas, the real world of architecture and history combined with my expressive love for colour and playful use of line. For me it is important that my work explores the formal qualities of art, looks positive and vibrant, and shows my style in the way I apply line. My personal art aesthetic involves outlines, staying true to form, tracing, and contoured lines. I enjoy using colour theory to highlight aspects such as warm and cool, contrasting and harmonious hues.

Producing a 3-dimensional composition was unexpected for me and was not my initial plan. I encountered difficulties prior to my change in direction, I projected the building picture onto a canvas. This was difficult as the lines and curves were hard to draw correctly. When I began painting the building, I used fine-line techniques. I found this practice difficult because of the detail required to create desired patterns. I overcame this struggle by changing my direction from using paint to a digital practice on Procreate. This change of direction meant I could more easily actualise my thoughts and ideas and create a better composition that reflected my style and personal aesthetic like detailed patterns etc. I believe this reflected the digital version the best, with the correct complexion. Experimenting throughout my process positively affected the quality of my composition because I knew exactly what I wanted to do when it came up to creating my final work. I experimented using many different materials and reflected on the impact it gave my painting, such as value and unity. This included experiments using photo transfers, posca pens, impasto medium, and paint. Trialling these materials meant I could outline the disadvantages of using these materials and decide whether to use them in my final artwork. I also experimented with other artists' techniques like Kimia Ferdowsi Kline and Henri Matisse, these responses allowed me to understand what I liked about their techniques and helped me decide the types of elements I would draw inspiration from. For example, I applied a colour palette inspired by Matisse, but I created patterns more like Arkley. I created many support works that helped decide elements like colour pallets and technique etc. One of these was a smaller-scale work on Procreate 'Concentrated Colours' that I did to determine the types of patterns used in my final work. I also did a mock-up of my final artwork on a smaller scale where I practiced making a composition 3-dimensional using foam.

To conclude I feel as though I have achieved my desired effect of showcasing a realistic building and adding technicoloured elements to make the realistic building less realistic in a style inspired by Howard Arkley and Henri Matisse.