

## *Urban Leaves*

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My practical piece was a watercolour painting contrasting a busy city street with an oak tree. To get to this idea, I started with considering the medium of watercolour. This was because I have had some practice with using watercolours in the past and I find that they are my favourite types of paintings to look at. From there, I decided that I would base my major around some idea to do with big cities. This was inspired by a recent holiday my family took to Tokyo. After deciding this, I brainstormed a variety of ideas for majors I could complete to do with this topic. I eventually settled on the idea of portraying the difference and relationship between large cities and nature as it was one of the things that struck me the most in Tokyo. I would do this by contrasting a scene from a city with a scene from nature to emphasise both their differences and similarities.

The picture that I chose to base the city part of my painting on was one of a busy city street in Tokyo. The street had many details, people, cars, shop signs and bright lights which perfectly show how bustling, busy and full of life a large city can be. To accentuate this, I blurred many of the details on the buildings lining the streets together to show how the overwhelming nature of such a place.

Despite this, I also wanted to show the beauty and liveliness of such a place. I did this by using very vibrant, bright colours and contrasting them with darker areas to make them stand out more.

I used a picture of a tree for the nature part of my piece as it is one of the primary symbols of the natural world. The tree was painted growing out of the city scene as it can show how there is a relationship between cities and nature and how they can work together. I did not include a background behind the tree, this was to create greater contrast to the city scene and depict the peacefulness and emptiness of nature. I did, however, try to create some similarity between the two scenes by using bright colours for the leaves of the tree to match the bright colours in the city. This was, again, to show the beauty of nature and overall to emphasise that both cities and nature can be amazing. The water droplet shapes extending down from the city scene had multiple purposes. They create a clear transition between the two scenes but also to further emphasise how cities and nature can encroach on each other and are not always separate.

Overall, I thought that my major achieved the themes that I set out for it to have.

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