

Hummingbird

Kristine Dayrit

For my second practical, I decided on the theme surrounding macro abstract. I gained interest in macro art when I saw normal everyday things, flowers, objects, living things, etc. close up and how abstract they look when viewed so closely. Colour and patterns can be discovered when something viewed abnormally in macro. I also pursued abstract art that is inspired by Georgia O'Keefe that made me decide to incorporate the two together. I did this by studying the colours and hues of the subjects and then applying this to their abstract counterpart.

My main influence for Macro art is probably social media. The world of social media is so vast now that any artist' from around the world's artworks can be viewed because of it. I first came across macro/microscopic photography and was just amazed by all the bright colours these subjects were hiding. Like how textured insects or bugs are close up. The different hues that are emitted by dragonfly wings, especially when hit by light, or how intricate and symmetrical they seem. I noticed how the small details in nature particularly, are often missed and looked over. So I decided to showcase these details through abstract and my art.

When producing the artworks, I tried several different mediums and techniques to see which ones produced better outcomes to certain subjects. For example, I learned that smaller fibres are best projected with coloured pencils like PRISMACOLOR or DERWENT. Fibers that seemed to have layers like butterfly wings seem to be best projected by palette knife painting with oil paint. I also tried watercolours but they seem to not have been the best for details unlike pencils or oil paint. Inspired by Georgia O'Keefe, I learned that chalk pastels could also produce some great abstract art. It was particularly interesting to see how each medium blended well to create gradients. Like for example, I learned that chalk pastels blended well between colours, much like oil paint. On the contrary, pencils needed 'transition' colours to be able to blend two different colours together. Working with pencils helped me gain a better understanding of warm and cool tones by finding out similar undertones between two colours and later using that as the transition shade. The more I worked with pencils, the more skills I gained throughout and got more confidence with using it.

For the final piece, I decided to use a macro photo of a hummingbird as a subject and projected it with coloured pencils. The different shades of colours that laid in the feather of the hummingbird particularly caught my attention. How one tiny creature can contain so many different colours. I tried to capture as much of these colours with the pencils and made sure to pay close attention to their placements by using a grid for portions and accurate details. The hummingbird as the final artwork is a great representation of Mother Nature and her natural colours and beauty. I believe my art captures this well.