

*Andy*

## **Josephine Douglas**

This painting is a portrayal of my Dad. I hoped that through his facial expressions I would be able to capture my theme of contemplation. Though after taking photos and referencing them through my painting process, I was able to capture a side of my dad that was deeper than the surface. As well as the contemplative gaze he holds, he is vulnerable, proud, and holds emotions within himself. This is shown through his head being held high, the strong yet wondering gaze, and the uncertainty in the direction that he is looking.

I was able to create this style of painting through experimenting with many mediums and deciding which one allowed me to grasp expression the most. I researched the works of Paul Gauguin and the meaning behind his series of paintings in Tahiti. These allowed me to explore emotion and hidden meanings within paintings, and how I could represent that in my work. Ben Quilty was a huge inspiration for the style of painting I chose to use. Visiting his exhibition in May was the starting point of his impact on my work, as well as researching his student Myuran Sukumaran. I was especially inspired by his loose strokes and the thick paint used throughout his portraits, seen particularly in his self-portraits. I also aimed to be able to portray the level of emotion and story in my portrait as Quilty did. Oil with impasto was used on canvas, with the use of layers and palette knives used continuously throughout to create a similar style to Quilty.

The reason I chose my dad to be the subject of my painting was that he is a person that I know on a deeper level, allowing me to understand his facial expressions and how I would I could portray him in an emotional way. I also have a great love for my Dad, which inspired me to portray him as explicitly him as possible and with as much love in the painting as I can.

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