

Forgotten Beauty

Charlotte Meekins

I have never truly experimented with landscape artwork before, however, I have always found the skills of realistic landscape paintings to be very impressive. This influenced me to branch out from doing portraiture and instead create a landscape piece for my second practical. I decided to produce a series of four landscape paintings representing the vastly different regions and environments of South Australia.

After visiting many locations to take photographs I chose a beach setting in Port Noarlunga, a green hills setting in White Valley, an isolated rural setting on the Eyre Peninsula and the red outback and mountains of the Flinders Ranges. Each of the four paintings represents a different region of South Australia, and I chose Port Noarlunga for the coastal landscape as it represents my local area. The images of Port Noarlunga and White Valley were taken by myself, however, I could not physically get to more remote locations such as the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders Ranges. Therefore, I explored the work of several photographers whose work showcases regional South Australia, and selected images by Dave Birch as the inspiration for my remaining paintings.

Before beginning my paintings, I researched many landscape artists who work in vastly different styles, such as Claude Monet, Tom Roberts and Wayne Thiebaud. I was initially inspired by Impressionism and its use of bold brush strokes to create texture, however, I discovered through trial and error that it was not the best art style for me to utilize. A more realistic and detailed aesthetic is the best fit for my vision and my desired locations.

I complete my paintings one at a time, starting with the White Valley landscape. When completing each painting it was important to start with the sky and work my way down to the foreground, as it allowed me to overlap and build up layers of colour as I went. I learnt throughout these paintings that simply changing brushes or altering my technique from smooth brush strokes to dabbing motions could greatly change the effect and produce different textures which I was able to apply on different subjects such as clouds, grass, leaves, etc. It was important to leave each layer of paint dry in between so that the canvas would accept the new layer of paint and colour effectively.

The intention behind my paintings is to showcase the diverse and beautiful landscapes and environments of South Australia. I feel as though South Australian can be the state that is disregarded because of its smaller population, however I want to show off the true beauty of our state from the coast right through to its arid interior.

Overall I am happy with the outcome because I think that each painting looks effective individually, but together they truly capture the diverse beauty of our state.

#