

I Want To Hold Your Hand

Amelia Taylor

I Want to Hold Your Hand was developed through the exploration of capturing a moment in time within artwork; how a moment in time is more than what you can see, it is the feeling and the emotion that makes it so special. This piece captures the moment where I played my late Grandad's guitar for the first time, it was a moment full of various emotions; joy in seeing the guitar, sadness in not being to share the moment with him and sentimentality as Dad and I looked back on the guitar and its importance to Grandad. Just like Dad and I, Grandad loved music.

The painterly technique used was influenced by those of the Impressionist era, who shared the concept of capturing a moment within artwork. This style was popularised by Claude Monet, whose works I drew great inspiration from. Using this technique creates visual depth, enforcing the complexity of this moment. Artist Berthe Morisot explored the detail of the moment within the centre of her works, with less detail towards the edges of the frame. This same technique was incorporated within my piece, featuring strong details in the centre of the piece with the face and guitar, and less detail on the back wall and carpet.

The detail in the face and guitar highlight them as the central focus of my work. My piece uses a variety of colours to create a calming piece, but with warm undertones. The muted hues of the brown, yellow and grey aren't bold, but adding the blue and white of the clothing draws the viewers' attention to myself, holding the guitar. This colour palette allows the viewer to connect to the warmth and serenity of the moment.

The title of this piece is significant to this work and everything it portrays. It is the title of a Beatles song, tying Grandad, Dad and I together through our love of The Beatles and music. The song title also has more meanings than a romantic connotation; it means connection, familiarity, love and loss, all themes that my painting explores. I believe my piece conveys the moment I tried to capture, a calming moment of warmth and intimacy.

The detail within the guitar and face highlights the primary focus; the significance of this guitar, being passed down through our family, and the emotional connection to the guitar and the moment. Using the visible brush stroke technique was intimidating as every stroke was visible, leaving no room for error. However, this piece has allowed me to develop confidence and skill in this technique, and I would be eager to use it again in future works. Capturing a moment or feeling within art is a challenge as understanding of the moment is required to bring it to life.

It is easy to visualise the moment, but it is up to readers as to how it is perceived. Capturing moments and feelings is part of why we create art, to express and connect with others.