

Final Touch

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The title of my artworks are 'Final Touch', two acrylic paintings on canvas with wooden frames. Visual Arts have always been a passion of mine since I was young. Most of my family members are artists. Everyone has their own style of art, some music, dance, and sports, but mine has always been art. It's a way for me to express my emotions. Growing up I was a quiet kid, but drawing and sketching helped me truly express myself. Art is a coping mechanism for me; it brings me peace, as when I'm drawing, painting, or creating art pieces, all my worries and stress are completely forgotten. In my Visual study, I researched Stephan Zhang a contemporary artist whose artwork is about cultural emotion and being present in the moment. Zhang's art is what influenced me to create artworks that have meaning and tell a story.

To create detailed and sophisticated artwork, different values of fine lines were used to create depth and realism, with the main focus of the pieces being the hair braids. I also utilised bold complementary colours to emphasise and attract the eye to the body of the work. A wide range of mediums were experimented with during the process of creating my art pieces, such as clay, watercolour, sketching, and acrylic paint, to decide which method would be most effective when creating my final pieces. I connected the most with acrylic paint as it would be the easiest to work with due to the fact that it dries quickly, blends nicely and doesn't require the most time compared to oil paint. I experiment a lot with different materials for the background, as I consistently alter the colour and pattern. My main idea was to use African print as a background. I decided to keep the background a solid colour of purple and green, complementary colours, to avoid distracting from the subject focus.

My artwork was inspired by Murjoni, an African-American female artist, known for her sculptures representing African hair. I created these two pieces to show my own pride and connection to culture. I chose to paint a portrait of a referenced female and a male, my older brother, using a reference photograph I took of my own braided hair work. I chose to paint two pieces solely focusing on hair, as that is my job and hobby, and I have a hair braiding business called 'Final Touch', which is why I chose to title the artworks to connect to this personal endeavour. The goal was to create two artworks that evoke emotions of playfulness, as they are vibrant and fun. Creating these two pieces, I have developed an emotional attachment to them due to the fact that they represent me and my passion. I want people to feel warm and elevated when viewing my art and to feel a sense of depth and history within my work. As it shows the beauty of braids being something many black people are judged for, I want my work to diminish these judgements and show the beauty that lies in African hair and the beauty of black people.