

## Dutchy

For my first practical piece, I decided to look at portraiture, I enjoy portraiture and I find it very interesting to draw someone's face and to really concentrate on all the different unique features they have. I love the idea of capturing someone's personal attributes and turning them into art. I decided to do my Poppa for my final piece, and I did this because he is very important to me. Even though he passed away from Cancer when I was three, I still feel as though he's with me and he's watching over me. I chose an image from one of the old-school photo-booth pictures, I chose the classic fish face expression to replicate because I felt like it captured his personality the most. In my initial planning stages, I looked at some specific artists including; Diego Fazio, Dirk Dzimirsky, Erika Farkas and Louis Smith. I tend to work in the style of realism, and by looking at these artists it helped me learn more about how realism is achieved and how to express emotion and personality through realistic drawing.

It was my first time drawing a portrait in the size of A1, so I decided to sketch a smaller copy and scan it to my computer then I could utilise the schools' projector and outline my drawing onto my large piece of paper. By doing this I sketched the general shape of my portrait and then I began to work on shading and defining lines. I eventually added details and darkened shadows to create a realistic portrait with depth and form. I decided to use graphite pencil as my media for a classic black and white drawing, and I did this because I personally feel as though black and white can create a deeper meaning than what is perceived by colour, as it's simple and you can concentrate on what is being expressed rather than all the colour. My work is aimed at all types of audiences and I want to express a sense of freedom, where people can be themselves and not have to worry about society's views. I hope with my portrait this can help people see and feel as though they don't have to be pressured by society to be a certain way to be accepted.

One problem I encountered throughout the process was that I wasn't sure how to create realistic hair, so I did some research, looked at some tutorials and saw how other artists draw hair and I tried to mimic this and interpreted it into my own style. I think this worked successfully.

This entire portrait was very new for me. It challenged me to work with such a large surface, and I learnt how to do things differently, such as projecting my work, measuring my work to the picture and it helped me create my own style and technique. I learnt how to blend and shade to create smooth texture, I learnt how to work with shadows to create depth and form, and I believe you can see this as a polished artwork when you compare it with the first few drawings I did in my folio. I'm really happy with my final product, I think it captures my Poppa really well and I am glad that I added the text underneath in the same style as my Mum's tattoo dedicated to Poppa. I would like to think it expresses my intended meaning well, portraying my special family bonds, and I probably wouldn't change anything about it because it also shows how much my style changes over time.