

Euphoric Nostalgia

Bree Nethercott

My work titled "*Euphoric Nostalgia*" explores feelings of childhood playfulness and enjoyment. It represents the feeling of being a child and the simplicity of this time in my life, the colours are bright and happy, and the background is painted in a way that is creative and fun which is what the mind of a child is like from a young age.

Each butterfly represents myself and my siblings, I grew up with them always there and some of my fondest memories as a child is with my siblings. The butterfly in the centre represents me because I am the middle child, and it is something that I struggled with for a long time. I chose the colours of aqua, blue, cream, purple, pink and gold because these are some of my favourite colours. The aqua reminds me of my mum because she has always liked aqua, and the blue reminds me of my dad because he has always liked blue. The flowers are pink because I love pink, and it reminds me of being a child, it is a colour that I associate with happiness and gentleness.

I love the result of my painting and I am so proud of what I have accomplished. My favourite part is the detailing of gold and white outlining many aspects of the painting. I love how this painting is so magical and I cannot help but smile when I look at it. Some challenges that I faced whilst painting this piece was the flowers. I could not work out what type of flower to include, how many, what size and what colour. I tried many different types of flowers and put them in various spots around the canvas, but nothing was standing out to me. It was a bit of trial and error and I also had to take a break from painting otherwise I could have painted something I would regret. After the break I came back and just decided to paint the rose and lilies, which I am glad that I did because it was a good decision.

Something I learnt during the painting process of this artwork was how to create a balanced piece. It was difficult at times especially because majority of it is abstract. I learnt that there needs to be difference in order for it to look balanced, for example, I used different colours, but they are all toned together well, I painted different shaped butterflies that were more realistic in contrast to the background and painted smaller details like the lilies, reeds and gold speckles. I think the drips add an interesting element to the painting as well.

I used a variety of mediums including Posca acrylic pen, acrylic ink, 0.6 fine line pen, 0.3 fine line pen, 0.8 white gel pen, cling wrap, paper towel, various sized palette knives and paint brushes. I enjoyed using different mediums because it was fun and made it more enjoyable as I was able to experiment using other techniques and materials than I usually would.