

Stage 2 Visual Arts – Art Practitioner’s Statement – Practical

Calm Morning in Teshima

In the initial stages of practical development, I was interested in Japanese landscapes. This was probably because I have leftover nostalgia after living in Japan for a year and having a Japanese background. My second practical is based off a photo taken on an island called Teshima. However, it is hard to distinguish the location just by looking at the painting itself and instead it represents the beauty of calm nature.

I wanted to continue to develop my skills in watercolour painting after completing my first folio. I thought that introducing a permanent ink pen would be a way I could further improve my abilities in the medium.

I researched and analysed the works of various artists that use pen and watercolour. Artists such as Ian Ramsey and Kimio Iwazaki did complex line work drawings first, then added the water colour in their painting. However, I was quite inspired after researching and analysing the work of another artist, Ken Morita, who also used pen and water colour but also used everyday life as a theme, and I believe my style has shifted closer to his. Using his techniques I furthered the knowledge gained from my previous folio, and learnt from my analysis in my second folio to further develop my individual style of a personal aesthetic.

As I worked on this folio, depicting the distorted reflections in water fascinated me and I wanted to feature this in my final work. I also explored visual elements in my landscape such as line, colour and depth. I changed the colours from the original photo and I used to pink to resemble an early morning sunrise. I tried to keep the boat and surrounding structure looking realistic and detailed and I achieved this by implementing stronger depth of colour and tone, and keeping the water simplistic, to denote a sense of calm and stillness, and depth.

In my composition, I placed the focal point of the boat on the left and left a lot of watery negative space surrounding it. I did this to make the painting more appealing to the viewer. The viewer’s eye will then move around and explore the scenery.

I am considerably pleased with the outcome of my completed work. I feel that I have greatly developed my skills in using watercolour and have been able to combine it with new skills I learnt in pen drawing. I think that my ability to recreate shapes and compositions has improved greatly. My colour sense is has also completely changed as depicting colours accurately was a skill I didn't have before this year. I have learnt how to look at an image or scenery and intuitively know what primary colours make up various secondary and tertiary colours. I feel that I have demonstrated a competency in using two pen and watercolours as two mediums to create pieces of work. In the future I want to continue to paint watercolour as using the mediums makes me feel satisfied and calm.

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