

## *Wander through an Italian Alleyway*

### **Lilah Lamb**

'*Wander Through an Italian Alleyway at Sunset*' (acrylic on canvas) depicts an Italian alleyway in Cinque Terre, Liguria as my interpretation of a historical Italian town from the perspective of a wandering tourist in the depths of Europe. My ongoing passion and love for travel for the purpose of cultural immersion was the primary starting point and influence for all creative decisions, leading the consequential research, experimentation and conceptualisation. Furthermore, the associated emotional experiences were a fundamental aspect that I initially aimed to capture and convey through a variety of features within the piece.

This included personal experiences of great vehemence such as anticipation and homesickness and the future desires to travel to places such as Europe that are culturally and scenically rich. The influential styles and use of articulate colour palettes of both Paul Gauguin and Paul Klee were fundamental to the conveyance of the story and sentiment of my own piece. I aesthetically connect to both Gauguin's and Klee's more abstract approaches and their mastery of vivid colour, hence, I wanted to use hue to enhance the aesthetics and convey meaning.

Every aspect was intentionally curated to produce a powerful piece with the intention of making a viewer feel excitement and to stir an emotion of want or need to visit such a place for the scenic beauty portrayed. The initial conceptualisation focused on conveying extreme sadness as a euphemism for homesickness through colour and body language of a possible subject, similar to '*Melancholy*' by Edvard Munch. However, as I began the piece, my intent and hence the overall message changed from one of loneliness to a story of joy as the viewer is immersed into the landscape of Italy. I aimed to portray a 'snapshot' view of a beautiful place that I have always wanted to travel to but never been able to.

The landscape, built from hues of acrylic grey and various pastels, uses value to enhance the movement of light and to highlight fundamental details. Hence, value helps to attain a realistic effect by creating proportionate and reasonable shadows and highlights for variety and balance within the piece. The light purple and yellow hues derive from a sunset occurring to the left of the viewer, further reflecting onto the buildings and the clouds in the background. The light colours are often associated with calming and peaceful vibes and convey the content atmosphere of the location. The foreground consists of numerous stones and tall walls, where line and form are fundamental to the production of the architectural aspect. As such, there is much proportion and unity produced, forming a very balanced and colourful piece.

I am pleased with the outcome of my piece and its connection to my own artistic aesthetic. The techniques utilised reflect my interest in colour and value and their uses within art to convey emotion and provoke thoughts. I believe that through the realism of the piece and the joyful aesthetic provided by the hues, a calming impact was produced that conveyed love for global exploration and cultural immersion.