

## *Fading*

### **Emma Prout**

I was inspired by the artist Lia Kimura. Kimura specializes in portraits and works primarily in oils. Her work is mostly connected with her place of birth, search for identity, intensive feelings, death, and hope. Her pieces have an expression and experimental approach in which the figurative body together with the abstract matter became the key themes of creative considerations. She has been an inspiration throughout my artwork and has motivated me to create something beautiful but conveying a strong and meaningful message that I personally relate to.

Whilst painting this portrait, I learnt that it's important to follow the structure when first drawing the picture onto the canvas. As later in my painting process, I went off track and painted the eyes on an angle that looked like they were facing front on when the face was tilted and looking side on. This caused a setback for me because I needed to go back to the drawing stage and completely move the eyes to the correct angle and ensure they were in the correct position before painting them again.

My self-portrait is going to hang on a wall at home. This painting shows an image of me fading into the canvas. I used Titanium White and Payne's Grey which assisted me with creating colours like the shades that Lia Kimura used in her piece. I chose to follow Kimura's technique as it expresses how many people feel including myself. When I look at her work, I resonate with feeling of being lost in the world and becoming invisible to the people you care about the most. I like to hide behind the walls and keep everything to myself. I am shy and have a fear of living a life constantly trying to be someone that I'm not, because I'm afraid of rejection by people that won't accept me for who I really am. I am very insecure which makes me doubt myself if people say they like me.

A constant difficulty that I encountered when creating this piece was getting the eyes to be looking at the correct angle. It was a challenge to get the painting to look like myself, as I didn't want to replicate Kimura's painting whilst using her style. I attained a softer finish by using the dry brush technique and scumbling with my brush to diffuse the hard edges. I painted everything in stages such as the face structure with nose and shadowing around the eyes with the addition of the textured background I painted with sweeping finger strokes.

I have demonstrated a good connection with my painting. It's incredibly emotive and conveys a strong insight of the emotions of feeling lost and invisible. My use of various oil and acrylic paint tonal values with a variety of texture directions assisted me in creating the portrait.