

## *Tokyo Night Light*

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My painting titled Tokyo Night Light is a cityscape using acrylic and pen on board, 50cm x 70cm. This asymmetrical work explores my love of cultures different to my Anglo-Australian heritage and focuses on the typically Asian signs, visual business and ambiance the darkness and city light can create. I have always been amazed by the way simple streets and cities can be transformed once night falls. The beautiful mess of powerlines and signs to me, just makes the scene more beautiful.

Initially, I wanted to research a smaller component of Japanese culture. I felt Koi fish would be the perfect topic to explore as they include the bold colouring I love and reflect the culture in a beautiful way. The striking colours inspired me to look more into Asian culture involving bright colours

When travelling to Hong Kong with my family I was constantly in awe by the unending streets of beautiful colours and lights. Since then, I have always dreamed of visiting Tokyo and its amazing and vibrant lifestyle. In my folio I initially worked on images from my photographs of Hong Kong but as my drawings progressed, I was drawn to Japanese culture, rather than Hong Kong. I have incorporated the aspects of Hong Kong I love and my dream of Tokyo. I have tried to achieve a perfect visual balance of memories and dreams.

I have used lines of perspective to lead the viewer's eye into the distance. Along with the two figures in the foreground, I added the shadow of my cat onto the pavement reminiscent of the eerie shadow in de Chirico's *Mystery and Melancholy* (1914). Adding the shadow of my cat's figure was also a subtle yet effective way to correlate my two major pieces.

Firstly, I used a large brush to block in the base colours of the signs and buildings. I then gradually worked my way through the colours and smaller shapes using smaller brushes as I went. This technique was effective as it helped me to gain a perspective into the layering and detail required. I appreciate the small details when I see images or am walking through streets and observing the unintentionally beautiful chaos of it all. To portray and create that effect, I used a felt tip pen. This allowed me to precisely add detail to signage and lights, as well as creating the effect of powerlines hanging above the street.

The process of my painting was challenging. When I began the piece, I was unsure of where to start. With so many components and layers required I was lost. But after working through the process of scaling, blocking in colours, and taking one layer and portion at a time, I was rewarded with a vibrant and eye-catching painting. After my research and exploration of architecture that create a true Japanese nightscape, I believe I captured these components perfectly.