

## *Still Life*

### **Lucy White**

My final piece is an acrylic on canvas painting of various still life objects that I arranged and photographed. The starting point began with the inspiration from various still-life surrealist photographers such as Los Objectos, and David Lineton. Each artist incorporates the components of asymmetrical balance, textures, and dimension to form a harmonious and visually pleasing arrangement of organic and inorganic objects.

The arrangement of objects was developed around the sea urchin and Murex shell that I wanted to include. As the origins of this topic originated from my nanna's shell collection, I wanted to make the shells the focal point but not overpower the composition. As such, I chose the smaller shells that were her favourite. In the creative process, I especially wanted to explore the concept of still-life painting, with the surreal arrangement of objects strongly influenced by the unusual arrangement of natural objects in the paintings by [Maruja Mallo](#). I decided early on that I wanted to utilise with a palette of 'earthy' tones to complement the natural elements of the piece. The pineapple, dried oranges, shell, and cigarettes all featured mostly warm tones and are balanced by the cool tones of the flower, vase and sea urchin. There are also multiple textures exhibited in this piece that contrasts against the smooth white background. Each texture is individually unique but creates a sense of unity that accentuates the biomorphic composition of the objects. The overlapping sheet of wet paper towel at the lower left-hand corner was also included to tie together the natural textures exhibited in the fruit and the flat, white area. The block areas and shadowing of the background effectively creates perspective and dimension and successfully draws attention to the arrangement of the objects. To replicate the textures of the chosen objects, I decided to use acrylic as it's the medium I have the most confidence in I appreciated the vibrancy of the colours. The paint strokes were meticulously added to replicate what is seen by the physical eye. It was, however, very difficult to paint on such a large-scale canvas, as every miniscule detail needed to be included.

The decision to include the cigarettes was inspired by Ester Grass Vergara's portfolio piece 'Shells & Cigs'. It modernises and draws attention to the relationship of nature and human nature. The shell 'smoking' the cigarette symbolises the four trillion cigarette filters that pollute the ocean, beaches, and rivers. I hope to ignite further appreciation for the world's nature by subtly suggesting how our thoughtless actions affect the world.

I believe my attention to detail and colour theory translated very well into this piece. I also appreciate the surreal composition of the objects and believe that it effectively draws the attention of the audience. I believe the techniques and methods utilised to represent the real textures of the objects in a refined manner, resulted in a pleasing and successful painting.

I was very focused on representing the textural elements in this painting as I believe that texture is an important part of our interaction with art.