

Eve

Hannah Bereny

For this painting, I was inspired by a photoshoot from an Instagram page called @the_lovewith__. Her name is Karissa, and I chose to message to ask for her permission to paint her – which she politely allowed me to do so. I really loved the photoshoot, as I believed it told a story that could be interpreted in many ways. I chose to emphasise on the biblical 'Eve' aesthetic of the image. However, in the background, I applied a biblical 'Virgin Mary' aesthetic. I chose to portray symbolic storytelling through various aspects of the painting.

The background of the painting is heavily influenced by renaissance style painting, including cherubs, and renaissance style clouds. The ring/sun behind her symbolises/references the Virgin Mary. While the fruit is symbolic of desire, and the snake tattoo is representative of 'the Devil on her shoulder'.

This painting touches on the topics of sexual desires, and societies standards of women. Comparing Eve and the Virgin Mary – while also giving recognition to Eve as the first woman.

Like many of the experiments, I utilised an alla prima technique, where I directly painted onto the canvas. However, through experimenting – I learned to begin with blocking in any shadows or dark tones.

The progression of the background was slow and somewhat tedious as painting each cherub was difficult. As well as making it obvious that, they are cherubs. I painted them with very warm, red tones, giving them very rosy cheeks. However, each cherub has a different facial expression – expressing different emotion.

I was heavily inspired by Solomon Kammer when painting the skintones – I attempted to apply a "paintily" effect, where the brush strokes are more obvious and chunky.