



Practical expressive artwork: 18/32
: 18/32
Sub-total: 36/64
Contextual analysis: 15/30
Evaluation: 3/6
TOTAL: 54







Advanced Higher Art and Design: Expressive portfolio evaluation

State your theme or stimulus and give a summary of your creative intentions

The theme of my work is based on flowers on a dining table. I am to show a variety of flowers. They stood out to me because of their different textures and how well they work together. I particularly likes the contrast between the larger flowers like lillies and smaller ones such as babies breath.

Give a brief explanation of how your contextual analysis relates to your practical work

I was inspired by Annie O'Brien Gonzales through her use of bold colours and Impressionist approach. I like how she used bright colours all over her painting so tried to include that in my own work. I also like how her paintings were down with very thick paint. It added texture and made the paintings stand out.

Instructions to candidates

Evaluate the impact of important creative decisions and the effectiveness of your artwork with reference to the theme or stimulus, creative intentions and specific turning points. **(6 marks)**

I started by finding my own source material to start with by buying some flowers. I did some initial drawings using continuous lines, non-dominant line and blind drawings. This helped me understand the shapes and form of the flowers. I explored collage throughout my portfolio. I cut up images of flowers from photographs and magazines. I arranged these in way that looked similar to the photographs I had taken. I think this worked well as I was able to create exciting compositions. I experimented with backgrounds by using thick acrylic paint with a palette knife. I wanted to create monotone backgrounds so the flowers would stand out behind them. One of my main tools was a palette knife. It helped me to lay the paint on thickly and give the flowers some extra texture which is really important to capture in these flowers. I used a smaller brush on top to add details. I looked into painting sunflowers but I decided against including them in my compositions. I think the flowers with bigger petals were more successful. I didn't like the brown centres as they made my composition less colourful. I used Procreate to experiment with different backgrounds. I bused the triadic colour wheel to help; me find complimentary colours to the flowers. I decided to have three pastel colours in the background which made it look more lively. I used lace in a few of my paintings towards my final. It really helped to add some extra texture and interest. I tried printing the lace to start but I decided sticking it on was a better approach. Oil paint was my main media. I really liked how bold and bright the colours could be. It also really helped the flowers texture come to life. I found this type of paint was able to be applied thickly and would blend easily together. I first tried painting on paper. This was more time consuming as I had to prime the paper with acrylic before I added oil. I found painting on canvas gave more texture due to the surface. This created more depth within my paintings and encouraged me to use thick paint. The artist I found really helped me to develop my skills in using brighter colours and to experiment in more mixed media and thicker backgrounds. I think these techniques really brought the painting together. My final outcome has a strong

visual impact due to the bright colours and thick impasto paint. This helps the wide range of flowers stand out against the background.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 2

The theme is flowers painted as a still life on a dining table. 'I aim to show a variety of flowers'.

Section 1 – Practical expressive artwork

Marks range description: Candidates provide evidence of their ability to respond to their theme or stimulus by producing a visually coherent and sustained creative process. This should show relevant investigative research and development leading to the effective resolution and realisation of artwork.

Continuous line drawing, photography and research into artist Annie O'Brien Gonzales, author of books on acrylic painting, form the background to this portfolio of flower painting. This material is developed using collage, printmaking and heavy impasto painting. All three are combined in some sheets suggesting that the creative process might lead towards a mixed media finale. The resolved work does contain collage, a lace doily, which is part of a still life. While there are effective examples in this process, the group of work is only partly coherent.

This part of Section 1 was awarded 18 of the 32 marks available

Marks range description: Candidates provide evidence of their ability to apply their understanding of art practice by skilfully and creatively using materials, techniques and/or technology to explore and experiment with visual elements.

The portfolio presents a variety of technical challenges such as painting with a palette knife, layering with collage and drawing, printmaking and painting in oils. Of these, the collage is done with a sense of exploration and experiment, the impasto knife painting is the most assured, while the oil on canvas shows an understanding of art practice. There are some effective examples of contrasting techniques, such as the use of broken texture together with detailed painting or the grid lines of tissue paper set against linear drawing. Though this exploration is promising, there is scope for further development.

This part of Section 1 was awarded 18 of the 32 marks available

Section 1 sub-total for practical artwork: 36

Section 2 – Contextual analysis

Marks range description: Candidates provide evidence of their ability to select an artwork with relevance to their practical expressive artwork and discuss the impact of related contexts through analysis of the features of the artwork.

'The Holiday Table', a still life with flowers by the artist Annie O'Brien is relevant to the practical portfolio. The candidate has divided the writing into headed paragraphs that thoroughly explain the effects of ten visual elements. This includes everything from colour to subject matter, with the visual impact of each. The influence of Van Gogh and Matisse is also explained: 'They aren't completely realistic just like O'Brien's aren't either'. Though the writing gives a clearly focussed account of the painting, there are various points that are stated rather than discussed.

This section was awarded 15 of the 30 marks available.

Section 3 – Evaluation

Marks range description: Candidates provide evidence of their ability to evaluate the impact of creative decisions and the effectiveness of their artwork with reference to the theme or stimulus, creative intentions and specific turning points.

This evaluation is a useful guide to the portfolio. With such a variety of material and approaches to still life with flowers, the candidate has much to evaluate. From the initial collection of resources including, 'buying some flowers', through photography, collage, acrylic and palette knife, procreate for backgrounds, to oils on canvas, this is a detailed chronicle of experiment, and exploration. There are explanations of creative decisions, but there is limited evaluation of the work.

This evaluation was awarded 3 of the 6 marks available.

Total: 54 marks