



Process: 10/10
 30/30
 Skills: 25/25
 25/25
Sub-total: 90/90
 Evaluation: 10/10
TOTAL: 100/100

Higher Art and Design

Expressive portfolio - evaluation

Instructions to candidates

You should reflect on and critically evaluate the creative process you followed when working through your expressive portfolio. In your evaluation give justified personal opinions on:

- ◆ the decisions you made when working through your portfolio
- ◆ the effectiveness of the visual qualities of your portfolio, referring to your theme/stimulus (10 marks)

For my expressive unit I chose portraiture as this was an art style that I felt comfortable with as well as using colour pencil throughout my body of work. I decided to draw my brother holding a camera to create a theme of his passion for photography, which pushed me further out my comfort zone as I wasn't used to drawing objects, especially when taking up most of the frame. I was inspired by the artwork of Michael Taylor and Anya Droug.

Development studies:

Camera staring directly at the viewer- I structured the composition so that the camera was placed in the centre of the piece and therefore being the focal point. As the subject (my brother) is slightly bending down and pointing the camera directly to the viewer, it is almost as if the subject is taking a photo of the viewer, which creates an impactful and surprising mood as the piece engages with the audience. Moreover, the subject takes up most of the frame which creates a strong impact as it forces the viewer to take in the detail as well as the drawing as a whole. The repeated circular shapes in the camera are drawn with deep dark tones while contrasting with the brighter tones which creates a sense of depth while also making the viewer's eye move in a circle taking them all in. Furthermore, the wide range of peaches, browns and oranges allowed me to create strong warm tones throughout the piece, adding a sense of cohesiveness to the piece. By drawing very softly, it creates the appearance of light tones which contrasts with the deep shadows in the creases of the jumper. Moreover, this adds a sense of depth while allowing the viewer to know the direction of the light source, which is coming from the right.

Camera facing left, subject staring into the viewer- The viewer is instantly drawn into the centre of the camera lens, as the green reflection contrasts with the overall warm toned piece, and therefore being a focal point. Similarly, the bold blue eyes also contrast heavily with the warm tones of the faces, which makes it stand out. Moreover, the intense gaze and piercing eyes staring directly into the viewer creates a powerful mood and suggests that the subject is almost ready to point his camera towards the audience. By using a rubber and applying softly on the hands and face, the lighter tones are emphasised, indicating the direction of the light source.

String of Polaroids in the background- The subject is given more character due to the 45 degree angle which provides a feeling of depth and perspective, adding to the visual interest of the image. Having the subject's face point left

and come out of the rear right side of the frame also creates a well balanced composition. Furthermore, I have blended and layered browns, peaches and yellow tones, to achieve a silky texture in the jumper. Again I have used warm tones in the jumper and face as I find this visually pleasing. I decided to add a string of Polaroids of my brother to fill in the background which ties the whole piece together while reinforcing his theme of his passion for photography.

Final Piece- I positioned the camera to be in above the centre of the frame as the viewer as the viewer will be instantly be drawn there and the dark lens contrasts with the light highlights of the hands, therefore making it the focal point. The texture of the jumper was a challenge to draw, however, I used a range of colours of browns, greys, dark greens, and reds and layered them upon each other, and applied softly in circular motions to create and appearance of a woolly jumper. Furthermore, I used colours of black and purple combined with dark red, and applied heavily with pencil to create dark tones and deep shadows in the hands and jumper which is highly effective as this formed a sense of depth. By contrast, the lighter tones in the face and hands are achieved as I left this untouched which also indicated the direction of the light source which is coming from the left. I wanted to vary the tones in this piece, as in my previous art work it has mainly been warm toned, so I decided to draw the hat green to allow the cold and warm tones to clash. I also made the subject point his camera directly at the viewer which creates a powerful mood as it engages with the viewer. For the background, I decided to add the string of Polaroids of my brother to highlight his love for photography, but to also invite the viewer into looking closer at my brother as it is drawn at a smaller scale. I chose to draw the Polaroids in black and white and to not add any colour into the background as I wanted the main focus to be my brother. I would say that the only thing I disliked about the piece was the lack of realism of my brother in the Polaroids as I struggled with the detail due to drawing at such a small scale.

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1 – Capturing the Moment

Section 1 - expressive portfolio - process

This portfolio shows highly relevant investigative research.

The candidate has completed highly detailed analytical studies in pencil and coloured pencil. The investigate is highly focused, relevant, and clearly used through the portfolio. Artist influence, although not required, give context to the for the portfolio.

This aspect was awarded 10 of the 10 marks available.

This portfolio shows highly effective development and refinement of one idea leading to the production of a final piece.

The candidate has produced a clear single line of highly focused development linking to the theme 'Capturing the Moment'. Development studies have been thoroughly explored with a high level of refinement, showing strong visual continuity throughout leading to a highly resolved final piece.

This aspect was awarded 30 of the 30 marks available.

Section 2 - expressive portfolio - skills

This portfolio shows highly effective use of appropriate materials, techniques and/or technology in response to their theme.

There is skilful and creative use of pencil and coloured pencil throughout the portfolio. A wide variety of pencil techniques have been used to explore a range of textures and tones as seen in the hair, jumper, and hands. Pencil has allowed the candidate to achieve a high level of refinement and detail whilst demonstrating control across all aspects of the portfolio.

This aspect was awarded 25 of the 25 marks available.

This portfolio shows highly effective use of visual elements and expressive effects in response to their theme.

The candidate has shown exploration of a range of dynamic compositions, exploring focal points and viewpoints that are resolved in the final piece. A restricted colour palette has been used successfully to create mood and atmosphere and visual continuity. The high tonal contrasts seen in the background and sitter's clothes reinforce the theme of photography suggested through the camera lights.

This aspect was awarded 25 of the 25 marks available.

Section 3 - expressive portfolio - evaluation

This expressive evaluation shows fully justified and detailed critical evaluation of the effectiveness of decisions and the visual qualities of their portfolio, with clear reference to their theme.

The candidate shows a highly effective understanding of the creative decisions taken throughout the portfolio which is evident in the fully justified comments about the visual qualities of their work. Evaluative comments were also made relating to the use of media.

This evaluation was awarded 10 of the 10 marks available.

Total: 100 marks