





Higher Art and Design Expressive portfolio – evaluation

Candidate name:

Candidate number:

Centre number:

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)

This evaluation must be submitted on the first sheet of your **expressive portfolio**.
Please do not amend the format of this document.

- I chose the theme 'Girl in the Picture'. This made me think about taking pictures so I decided to work on the idea of taking a photograph. It also made me think about old fashioned paintings and decorative picture frames. I started to make drawings of these things for my investigation. I also made a drawing of a hand as I thought I would probably have hands in my developments and final piece and I wanted to practise this as hands are often difficult to get right.
- During my development, I experimented with different compositions featuring self-portraits. I tried different ways of showing the theme of 'Girl in the Picture' from quite simple compositions of me holding a camera to more complicated set-ups involving the idea of taking a picture of me inside a picture. I really liked these compositional studies and decided to develop this into my final piece. I also liked the gold frame as it made it much easier to understand the idea and added a contrasting element.
- In my development studies, I tried lots of different materials as I wasn't sure which would be best for my final piece. I tried oil and chalk pastels. They were quick to use but didn't give a lot of detail. I also tried pen and ink which I found was quite unpredictable and difficult to control, although I quite like the effect. I had already tried watercolour in my investigation so I decided to experiment with acrylic paint, which I really enjoyed using as it was expressive but realistic at the same time.
- In my final piece, I thought I would include a full figure portrait as it was more challenging. I think I got the proportions right and I am pleased with the painting as I think it is more unusual than a typical head and shoulders composition for a portrait.
- The hand holding the camera in the foreground taking a picture works well and is a quirky way to show my theme. It also helps to add depth.
- I also like how it also looks as if I am about to photograph the viewer. I think my piece makes you think about portraits in a different way and about taking pictures and having your picture taken.
- I think I have achieved a good balance of realism and expressive technique in my painting. I tried to use looser brushwork in the background and add detail where it was needed. I was dressed in black and this was quite difficult to paint and to get the different tones right but I think I have succeeded. Overall, my piece turned out better than I expected and I am very happy with the effect.

RNQ Higher Expressive Portfolio Commentary: The Girl in the Picture

Section 1 - Expressive Portfolio - Process

Producing relevant and focused 2D/3D analytical drawings, studies and investigative research appropriate to their selected theme/stimulus and their line of development

Limited relevance		The analytical drawings presented are all highly relevant to the theme and form the basis of the portfolio.
Partially relevant		
Relevant		
Highly relevant	✓	

Demonstrating a single line of focused development, showing visual continuity and the refinement of one idea and the production of a final piece

Limited effectiveness		The candidate has taken a clever concept and has demonstrated strong visual continuity in their approach to refine and develop the idea further using a series of sketches and compositional studies which convey a strong narrative across the portfolio.
Partially effective		
Effective		
Highly effective	✓	
Section 2 - Expressive Portfolio - Skills		
Creatively and skilfully using appropriate materials, techniques and/or technology in response to their theme/stimulus		
Limited effectiveness		The choice of media and techniques allow the candidate to refine the concept in an honest and creative way although in some studies the skills shown are less resolved in terms of media handling.
Partially effective		
Effective	✓	
Highly effective		
Creatively and skilfully using appropriate visual elements and expressive effects in response to their theme/stimulus		
Limited effectiveness		The candidate's choice of visual elements and the exploration of composition are highly effective in developing a creative response to the theme. The candidate produces a fully resolved final piece; the use of the frame, the viewpoint and areas of limited colour develop a strong mood and atmosphere in the piece which is highly effective.
Partially effective		
Effective		
Highly effective	✓	
Section 3 - Expressive Portfolio - Evaluation		
Giving a justified critical evaluation of the effectiveness of decisions and the visual qualities of their expressive portfolio with reference to their theme/stimulus		
Limited critical evaluation		The candidate's explanation of their creative decision making with reference to their theme, is a mix of both descriptive and justified critical points.
Partially justified critical evaluation		
Justified critical evaluation	✓	
Fully justified and detailed critical evaluation		