

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

Isabelle Wright

As an evolving and developing artist, I wanted to stimulate and provoke the thoughts and the opinions of my audience. Paying attention to classical antiquity and giving a 'timeless quality' to my work, I anticipated that my work would be strongly influenced by the artist M.C. Escher, Rene Magritte and Kay Sage, all of whom worked in way that presented the world in an altered reality'. M.C. Escher provided a very strong influence in the development and composition of my final piece.

Looking very much towards the architectural illusions, which dominate the majority of his works, I wanted to incorporate the structure and archways of the Basilica Cistern and combine that with the dark black and white tones of the Escher's works. I also drew upon the serene, humanistic compositions of the Early Renaissance painter, Pierro della Francesco, whose use of geometric forms and perspective pioneered the creation of deeper space on the canvas.

Rene Magritte was my greatest inspiration when it came to creating a surrealist quality. In many of his works, I observed that quite often pieces of people would be completely empty or missing, this 'hole' inside his subjects have another perspective to the painting and, in a sense, served as a window into another world.

Kay Sage, once again, was my major influence for my colour palette. For my colour scheme I used a warmer colour palette however still using neutral tones and there were less greens and more oranges and yellows. This gave the work a sense of harmony. The strong contrast between the black and white archways and the blending and moving tones of her head scarf and the cloth which she is sitting on gives the painting a powerful presence.

The figures themselves are drawn from ancient statues. Artists such as Giorgio de Chirico feature these statues in many of his works but often out of context to other aspects of his works and placed among mundane objects. Much like his works, I wanted to create an air of enigmatic simplicity to provoke an air of nostalgia.

The meaning for which I based this painting on revolves around the human psyche and the many levels which it has and is influenced by. The lady posing at the very front of the painting represents those who influence our lives, those who shape us as humans and influence our thoughts, beliefs, emotions and moral values. This hand is quite large in scale compared to that of the two females figures; this corresponds to how we are actually influenced greatly by those who surround us. However, I have deliberately allowed the work to have an enigmatic quality which allows the viewer to go on their own journey into another world.

This painting has been an interesting journey for me and was quite challenging at times due to the scale of the work. I believe that my ideas have matured in this second piece and its conceptual qualities are more profound.