

Practitioner's Statement

Conquest of the beard

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Looking at current trends or fads within society today I realised that the 'hipster era' had dawned upon us. Men with tattoos, long hair and beards along with nose piercings and comb overs were all around me. After having a closer look I was intrigued to investigate the texture and style of their beards to recreate within a drawing. My aim was to produce a suite of seven works all in different medias to showcase my skills as a practicing artist. The medias chosen were watercolour, coloured pencil, graphite and fine liner. The reason for choosing to do multiple works was to represent the varying beards I see everyday within my family and in public.

I explored the works of the artists **Agnes Cecile**, for her water colour techniques and use of white gel pen to create a visual contrast- as well as **Kris Trappeniers** for her intricate scribble and line work creations to inspire a different style of drawing. These techniques were synthesized through successful experimentation to create texture to apply to the final piece. The artist **Lana Gloschat** inspired me to use coloured pencil through her technique of recreating texture through wrinkled skin and imperfections within the face.

Through the synthesis of these artists the work was successfully created and I was happy with the final product. However I strayed from the original idea of focusing on hipster style and I leant more toward the everyday beards. I did this by incorporating random people found in the city and my pop. This also included a sense of family to my work and in turn a deeper meaning to the portraits of my pop. Through using different techniques I have successfully showcased my skills within many different aspects and medias such as using complementary colours, toning, scribble work and manipulating watercolour paint. These techniques all worked in terms of creating interesting textures and tonal works for the beards. The decision to do all the works in different sizes was to also showcase how every person is different which also gave each artwork a sense of personality.