

Practitioner's Statement

Ancestors

Lana Morton

My artwork began with the exploration of different mediums in representing space. From this I then explored my roots of portraiture, use of tribal elements and fascination with shapes. I drew inspiration from my captivation of Native American culture in general and was strongly influenced by elements of my own beliefs. Kim Nguyen and Reykat were highly influential to the creation of my artwork series 'Ancestors' or individually 'Wisdom', 'Force' and 'Coherence'.

I intended to put forth through my artwork various meanings to provoke the viewer in thinking about the symbolism used. I used shapes as whole to represent modern society, yet individually they stand for similar meanings representing my abstract view on their personality. This idea had been sparked by studying Kim Nguyen's 'Anthro' collection. Her use of shapes accompanies an idea of a shape's symbolism to the animal hybrid. The animal hybrids and tribal markings represent my adaptation of tribal culture of the Native Americans with the additional meaning of tradition and ancestral heritage. Mixing the two main components together I wanted to ideally make the use of symbolism to the heritage of others from which consist of traditions and culture in modern society.

Reykat's idea of painting in an impressionist style and powerful poses of the animal hybrid sitter influenced my animal hybrid poses to connect to their meaning. She helped me to further experiment with my texture style with achieving fur realistically with it.

On an individual level, each painting is named after the notion of symbolism. 'Wisdom' is of the wolf woman. In Native American culture, they believed the animal represented knowledge, leadership, nurturing (depending of given gender) and guidance. 'Force' is of the bear man. In their traditions bears were believed to be notions of protection, love, strength and brutality. 'Coherence' is of the deer man and represents the notions of fertility, balance, nature and beauty.

The colour I selected for the geometrical and body paint on the pieces were mainly natural vs bright. I believed the use of white with the wolf created a vibe balance and dark violet of femininity, mystery and a sense of empowerment to her. The blue of the deer gave a sense of youth and harmony whereas the whites and green were growth, fertility and balance as well. The bear's red and yellow colour scheme is to represent war, anger, protection and materialism.

'Ancestors' has been technical to construct conceptually and symbolically. My favourite aspect of the paintings is the skill level used in the fur. In a design aspect I also believe it is visually stimulating and provoking. The pieces as a whole have been highly successful and symbolise my notion of culture roots in modern society.