

Practitioners Statement

Jack, Koral and Kisha

Diana Barber

For this final, I have selected the dog as my subject for one I wish to further my realism skills but I further influenced to select dogs as they have always played an important part in my family and my life ever since I was young.

I wanted to keep the appearance of these dogs realistic one aspect I wished to portray in my final works was the personalities of the dogs in question. I found that a large aspect of the personality comes from the composition and the dog's eyes. I wish to emphasize the texture of the dog's soft furred coats and complicated colours within these coats.

This final is made up of a set of three dog portraits. The first is of Jack a Jack Russell my own dog, the second of Koral a Koolie cross my cousin's dog and the third of Kisha a Koolie cross Golden Retriever also my cousin's dog.

I was influenced by an oil painting of a dog titled 'puppy love' by Luna Vermeulen. Vermeulen painted the fur as single strokes which emphasized the dog's rough coat. I was further inspired by a YouTube clip by Jason Morgan showing how he paints fur by first painting singular strands of hair then glazing over with another colour to form the coat. I found that painting the strands of fur in singular strokes emphasizes the coat by adding texture. I also discovered that one layer of fur is not sufficient to create a realistic effect but rather several layers of fur.

I was influenced by a realistic oil painting titled 'Nikki' by Katja Turnsek. The composition of this dog was focused on the viewer giving a more personal impact furthermore this composition is alert expressing the dog's energetic nature. In my own finals, I took this into consideration Kisha's composition has a rather curious expression reminds me of her shy and curious nature. Koral's is more alert but at the same time more relaxed this represents her more playful but at times reserved and lazy nature. Whiles Jack's composition is alert and focused slightly away from the viewer representing his independent and energetic nature. Together the focus of these three dogs align.

I was inspired by a realistic historical oil painting titled 'French Hounds' by Charles B Hermann-Leon. Hermann-Leon's complicated use of colour inspired me as he uses strong highlights and shadows upon the dogs giving the painting contrast however Hermann-Leon repeats colours across the image bringing it together. In my own works, I have limited the amount of colours I used and allowed these colours to repeat across the paintings bringing the painting together.

I believe I have produced a series of three finals which show the personalities, natures of these dogs in a realistic style true to dogs form.