

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Nature's Grandeur***

Jessica Chan

The initial idea for my first folio and practical was 'nature's grandeur', which was prompted by previous family holidays to the Grampian ranges and Grand Canyon in America. Initial watercolour, oil and acrylic experiments of photographed landscapes showed realism that reflects Jason Cordero's hyper realist landscapes. I noticed while looking at landscapes, that there were visual similarities of shapes and lines between the aerial satellite views of the landscape and microscopic images, which resulted in two water colour paintings that were of satellite image of a river that were similar to microscopic patterns prompting the idea for an oil painting of a mountain range in a petri dish. After thinking about similar shapes in landforms, I came across Youngsoon Jin's work of a 'mountain' made of wheatbix and I took objects around the house and arranged them to look like mountain landforms. The materials used included, Vietnamese hats, pasta and post it notes. I also noticed paralleled shapes in the human body so I photographed body parts and arranged them into the form of a landscape like the body-scape images by artist Carl Warner.

I became interested in the way landscapes painted by Paul Cezanne sought to capture the mountain in basic form and were the beginnings of faceted planar landscapes. I was then lead to Picasso and Matisse and their Cubist style paintings which involved further simplification until only shapes were left. Contemporary art today can be seen as inspired by the geometric shapes in the cubist paintings as well as the current popularity of geometric, faceted shapes in today's design . Amy joy Watson's faceted sculptures on view at the Fleurieu art prize, inspired me to create a faceted mountain painting and eventually thinking three dimensionally. I then created simple pyramid shapes with skewers and plasticine and grouped them into mountain like ranges. From this I was able to switch them around and figure out what kind of arrangement would be most aesthetically pleasing. Katy Ann Gilmore's wall drawn ranges using fine liner pen motivated line work, white on black, and Elisa Strozyk's work inspired me to create movable mountains using small balsa wood triangles attached to fabric. My final artwork is a combination of techniques. This three dimensional balsa wood sculpture incorporates scalene 3mm thick triangles, mitred to create a variety of pitched mountain forms. Some mountain facets are painted with realism using oil paints, reminiscent of Jason Cordero's super realist paintings, while others are painted solidly in response to a general direction of light.

Throughout this folio process I have discovered shapes that are relatable to a number of common objects. I have noticed the similarities between mountain grandeur and other natural forms whether large or small.

I have moved my skill and personal visual aesthetic beyond painting and into sculpture. I have now refined my approach, as Cezanne and Picasso did, to finding the essence of the objects structure with an enjoyment of unconventional materials.