

Throughout my artworks I explore the ideas of emotions and expressions through the distortion of the face using colours, techniques and texture. I have explored different mediums and concepts; *Streets of Paris*, *Half and Half* and *Crossing Paris* explore the idea of buildings, the movement of people and how they are impacted by the surrounding. I like working quickly with paint on canvas and also working at a large scale. I explored different mediums that show in my previous work such as ceramics, chalk drawings, collage and hatching and printing. My overall theme is the journey of understanding emotions through expressions and facial features such as the eyes, mostly by using colour to depict the emotions.

I then developed my ideas and started to focus on emotions, especially children's emotions that show through expressions and the distortion of the face. I mostly work with acrylic paints as I find it better to express the message fully, I was always interested in portraits and the distortion of the face, I started with taking pictures of my nephews and my younger brother and looking at the distortion in their faces when making funny expressions, with that idea I created the large scale painting *Pietro*, which is one of my most successful painting because of the balance of colours and the impact it had on the audience. I took inspiration from Lucien Freud, he paints with thick acrylics and textured brushstrokes, he uses bland tones and throughout the years of his career he developed his style of leaving texture on the painting. The message he tries to convey is to show the person emotions and he also plays a lot with distortion in the facial expressions. I have explored different techniques such as creating a ceramic piece, drawing with charcoal and painting with acrylics. A main source of inspiration that helped me develop my work is photography, it fascinates me the way it is possible to capture a moment forever and I wanted to do the same but with paint. Photography helped me recreate most of my paintings as I rarely work from real life, I prefer to take my time and carefully analyse a picture.

The exhibition is set up in a way where the audience as soon as they enter can see my most prominent work which is the large scale portrait, since the exhibition is set up in long horse-shoe shape it allows the viewer to continue looking from either side of the exhibition. I played with the composition of colours hoping for the audience to understand the meaning of the emotions colours can represent, this was inspired by Jenny Saville as she uses bright colours in her paintings to depict the fascinating aesthetic potential of humans. The audience will see that the concept for my artworks is to focus on emotions and expressions that show through the distortion of the face, especially through the enlarged eyes.

I hope the audience will feel overwhelmed when looking at my paintings and relate to a familiar emotion, especially the intent of the imposing eyes on the large scale paintings engaging the viewer. This makes the viewer engaged in the exhibition, I find that the eyes are the most expressive element of the face and I was able to show that by making the large eyes the focal point of my portraits.