

The initial ideas I had for my final project were on the lines of the environment, in which I produced some images and some 3D art. My paintings of detrimental objects were designed to highlight the dangers of plastic and other harmful objects which are discarded on beaches or elsewhere, but most likely destined to end up on shorelines. This causes injuries to wildlife/ocean life and even the demise of many creatures.

An American photographer Chris Jordon's photograph of a dead Albatross chick, which he had cut open its stomach to expose the number of plastics this bird had eaten with other detrimental objects. I tried to portray these various objects in my paintings and collages. I produced a collage consisting of twenty-four colourful plastic straws, ironed together, the result was quite interesting, the attractive colours look pretty and appealing, however in reality they are such a menace to our oceans causing the demise of ocean life. The painting of a fly-fishing hook in acrylics, entitled Detrimental Object. Many of these hooks which are attached to fishing lines are discarded by anglers on shorelines and the sea and marine life feed on them and get caught up and tangled causing death. I created a collage of an ocean theme using melted colourful, cut up plastic straws for the coral and fish, using remnants of a plastic bag for a Tesco bag floating in the ocean causing the demise of sea life, a dangerous object. The only three-dimensional artwork I intended to create was a big wave, I had chicken wire stapled to a large rectangle piece of wood, the wire was fixed in a loop, so it could be like a bin for lots of plastic bottles. Once this was full to the top, it was going to be bent into a shape of a big wave.

The "Figurative" theme gave me a lot of scope for producing artwork covering different aspects of all human form, such as physical, emotional and passive. My research into the English Impressionist and Realist painter Dame Laura Knight, inspired me to create the paintings "Poised", "Punching the Kitchen Hob" and "Pushing Yourself to the Limit", these images are about how women can be physical and active rather than passive, as they are portrayed in many famous painting in the art galleries worldwide. Like Knight's paintings depicting female figurative characters working in the traditionally male roles.

My artwork of the two contemporary dance figures resemble Impressionists Edgar Degas' and Eduard Manet's work but without the frills and the big dresses, they have a more contemporary look, less clothing!

When I saw William Asencio's "Elegance Embellished" painting, it prompted me to do something similar, it was simple but quite powerful with the deep tones and the gentle movements. Asencio's painting is thicker in paint and has a lot of squiggly scratches which may have been done with a pallet knife. My version is more of a smooth one with no scratches, and I applied the paint more thinly with less blending.

I captured some images off the television with my mobile phone camera, of the "Cuban Street Musicians & Dance", I loved the vibrant colours, particularly the blue background of building I did not get around to finishing the background, so still in progress. The musicians have a static look of the Indian artist Amrita Sher-Gil's "Musicians "

Back in 2012, I was lucky to get tickets for the cycling event at the London Olympics, I wanted to reflect on this in producing a lively cycling image of a velodrome event, "The Women's Team

Pursuit". The artwork with the "Poised" and "Punching the Kitchen Hob" have some elements of Maggie Hambling's Andy Murray portrait.

During lockdown, we have seen so many harrowing images of hospital medical staff working flat out, trying to keep so many covid-19 patients, alive, I produced some quick pastel sketches of these profound images, which I took photographs off the television, for a guide. In the style of artist Guy Denning with more colour.

Most recently I have been looking at the Bay Area Figurative Movement for something a bit more cheerful in these sad times. I had some photographs of a place in Spain I often visit. My photographs of the salt lakes in Spain are an interesting background, the lake is pink and the salt around it is quite white in colour. I painted figures of my family.

My theme on "A Memorable Place" I produced some paintings of a night sunset in Spain, a sea scape with totem poles on the Mediterranean shore, Millbank Tower - where I used to work and Statue of Liberty in which I painted oils onto glossy photographic paper. I have tried this after I saw an artist on an episode of *Sky Landscape Artist of the year*, paint oils on glossy photographic paper.

Looking back over the last year I have gained many skills in art practice. My research into various artists has enriched my way of thinking and I believe this has reflected in my artwork and in my writing. I have really enjoyed the fine art degree course and I hope to continue learning.