

## EVALUATION

For my final major project, I was slightly nervous and confused in the beginning as it is a 9 credits project, therefore the most important one among all the others that we can completed so far, during the year.

After several reflections and considerations, shown in the blog, I came up with the idea to create an artwork based on the “Sufi art” style, inspired by the topic of my essay; Sufism. This style consisted of creating artwork in the classic style with metaphorical meaning. Therefore, after generating a few ideas and evaluating them, I decided to create my final piece based on the concept of “motivation”. The reasons I chose this topic are two; it is one of the topics portrayed in Sufi art and, also, because I was witnessing many people around me, suffering from mental health challenges, therefore I felt that delivering a motivational message through a creative piece of art could have been useful for such audience.

During this project, I had the chance to develop many skills and learn new ones, as well, starting from choosing the concept and formulating ideas to painting a large-scale canvas. At the beginning of the project, I was lacking ideas and was directionless about where to start and what to display. However, with my teacher’s suggestions and guidance, I began and learned to look at my own work to create innovative ideas (essay) and to keep producing designs and keep researching in order to end up with a captivating outcome. Therefore, I created several sketches relating to the respective topics that I was considering for my final piece and evaluated several concepts before choosing the final one. This was a new lesson and experience for me as I have never produced a similar amount of work just to plan something, but I found it useful and important as it has helped me to obtain a strong idea starting from nothing. Another skill that I have developed is painting, which is one of my strengths, but I have not painted anything on such a big scale with all the minute details as I usually make paintings in my A4 sketchbook.

As for the equipment that I have utilized to create my final piece, I have used what typically requires to create a simple painting; acrylic paints, brushes of different sizes and a canvas. The only thing that I have used, which is not common in every painting, are the metallic paints, which create bright and shiny effects as the Sufi paintings.

In order to create a sophisticated and realistic look in my painting, similar to Sufi paintings, I started with a light and thin layer paint, using more water and a tiny amount of paint, and proceeded with thicker layers, step by step. With technique I obtained the “chiaroscuro” effect in some parts of the paintings such as the rose flower and its leaves. At the beginning, instead of free hand drawing, I traced the design onto the canvas to prevent mistakes, which would have resulted in not having a well structured image. However, to create a shiny and bright background, I used the metallic golden paint but as it was very thin therefore, I had to create several layers with it to make it prompt out and look uniform.

The problem that I have faced throughout the project are a few, including the struggle that I have encountered at the beginning to find out a satisfying and interesting concept and then, once I worked out the concept, the confusion to how creatively and visually present the theme of motivation in reference to the Sufi style. But as mentioned before, with research and producing several sketches I solved this problem. The second major barrier was time and time management, as the work was huge, including the little details in the paintings, which took me days to complete as I had to draw them, paint them and wait for them to dry as I had to use different colours so to avoid mistakes and mess. However, the solution to this was only working more and more either at college and at home.

Another element that I had to consider was the Islamic art boundaries which disallow the use of any sort of inappropriacy such as vulgarity or the use of human and animal figures. Therefore, I tried my best to avoid anything unsuitable for an Islamic artwork as Sufi art is part of the Islamic culture, however, the only failure in this was the use of human figures but this could be taken as an improvement for the future, where I will try to be more sensible and responsible for these kinds of issues.

At the end I had to consider the presentation; how to display my painting in the exhibition. Therefore, I left the edges of the fabric (canvas) blank and slightly messy to make it look like an old found painting and just stuck it to the wall, without framing, inspired by the presentation of Islamic paintings and tradition carpets at the Victoria & Albert museum, where we went on a class trip.

At the end, evaluating my final piece I personally cannot identify any improvements and consider it successful, however looking at the feedback that I

have received from my class mates there are little things that could be adjusted such as trying a different colour for the frame or filling the empty space in it by adding mor patterns.