

Exhibition Review – National Portrait Gallery Historical Paintings

The power, colour and flamboyance in these age old paintings are what drew me to really focusing on the power of the female in my FMP. The luxury portrayed through the styling and pose of the models in a clear suggestion of female strength. Although the dress may have been for the man due to the context of 16th century woman I feel that combining the overall show of power in these portraits with the strength of Rwanda's woman would be a very powerful concept. I loved the obsession with extravagance throughout this exhibition and the focus on the use of flowers throughout both as a symbol of mourning and beauty. This is something that I can compare with Rwanda, and my imagery of the country. As this is a permanent exhibition feature at the National Portrait Gallery the grandeur is empathized by weight of these paintings still be so important and influential today, this is the kind of importance my project needs to hold to complete its goal of making a difference through its voice. I find art a really significant part of my inspiration for my research especially as I want to focus a lot on colour for this project. Paintings can really help to identify colour palettes and patterns and teach me and placement and effect of colour on the garment. Therefore I am more able to keep my aesthetic in tune with my concept and make sure they work together to make the whole process of the sketchbook and the final piece more relevant to my subject. Overall I found the exhibition extremely beneficial to my initial project research as it involvement both concept, female and strength, and processes, colour and techniques, that I want to explore in my FMP.