

Homage to Françoise Gilot and Pablo Picasso

With a love of art history, my drawing practice pays homage to those artists who have gone before.

This series was inspired by the work of two artists living in the area around Nice on the Côte D'Azur, as WWII was drawing to a close.

Pablo Picasso and his partner Françoise Gilot, forty years his junior, lived and worked here from 1946. Famously the only woman to ever leave the master, she abandoned him in 1953, fleeing to Paris with their young son and daughter.

In particular, I was intrigued by the work of Françoise. Against the backdrop of motherhood and her volatile relationship with the Spaniard, during their years together, the artist still managed to maintain her own art practice.

Distinct to her hand, she was determined to focus on her drawing, feeling it was less likely to be influenced by the master, than perhaps her painting would be.

Depicting each other and their children formed a common thread in the work of both Picasso and Gilot.

Drawing on her domestic surroundings, Françoise would also create a visual inventory of the objects in her kitchen. The works formed an exhibition, presented in Paris in 1952, her first solo show.

In keeping with the theme, for this series I chose French coloured pencils, watercolour paint, and paper.