

Hayley Smith

Artist Statement

'Packed away memories' explores the culmination of memories held within an inanimate object represented through colour. The inspiration for this artwork stems from Mr. Ben Chifley's suitcase, which can be found displayed within the historically preserved Chifley Home in Bathurst, NSW.

This artwork delves into the experiences and memories obtained and stored within the suitcase throughout its many journeys undertaken, seeking to portray some of the numerous stories and memories it could share with us if it were able to. The suitcase has been constructed by a mixed media and collage assemblage of various sepia washed papers, detailing Mr Chifley's life; including his time as Prime Minister, his wife Elizabeth, his hometown of Bathurst NSW and vintage style maps to illustrate the many trips he embarked on with his suitcase whilst in office.

Memories are kept within our hippocampus, located in our brain's temporal lobe, where they are stored and indexed for later access, much like opening up a suitcase to unpack at the end of a journey. Illustrating this, a plethora of memories fill the canvas, flowing out of the opened suitcase represented by fluid swirling hues of acrylic paint. Drawing on colour symbolism principles, each colour represents an emotion or association with a memory. These forms mesh and intertwine with each other, demonstrating the nature of how our memories build and connect in order to construct our life's narrative.

Label Information:

Hayley Smith

Geelong, Victoria

'Packed away memories'

Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 80x100cm