A necklace with circular links and a pearl pendant is displayed on a mannequin bust. The necklace features a chain of interconnected circular links, with a single pearl pendant attached to one of the links. The background is a solid olive green color.

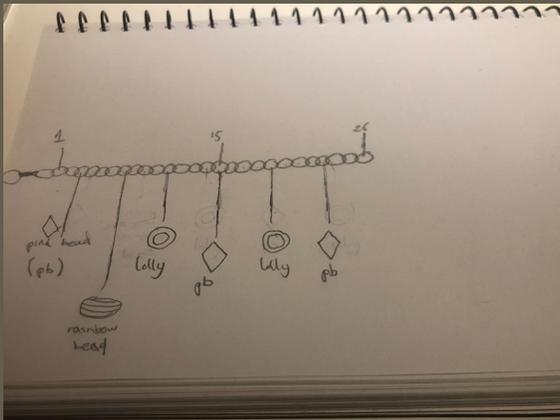
THE INFLUENCE OF JEWELLERY

Emma

PLAN

I decided to focus my IGNITE project on jewellery as it has been a huge part of my life and how I present myself ever since I was young. I wanted to create a series of pieces depicting the different stages of life and how they differ depending on a persons age and accomplishments. The three pieces I chose to make was a bracelet for the adolescent stage of life, rings for midlife and a necklace for the later stages of life. To achieve my goal of making high quality pieces, I got a lot of help from my mum who is a jeweller and listened to her recommendations as to what materials and tools would be well suited for my vision in order to create my best work.

MAKING THE BRACELET



I began by choosing out the beads, lollies and sizes of the faux pearls so they would still be a statement but not have a very bulky look.

Once I started planning the bracelet, I knew it was going to be the easiest as I had already purchased the chain and only needed to thread on the pearls and attach the charms.



After the pearls and charms were put on, I had to wait a while for the lollies which came just in time, however since I had already attached the charms securely, I had to change up the placement of the candy.

I then threaded on the pearls, put on the chain so the pearls wouldn't move and set out where I wanted each charm to be so I could attach them by threading through a wire and creating a loop.



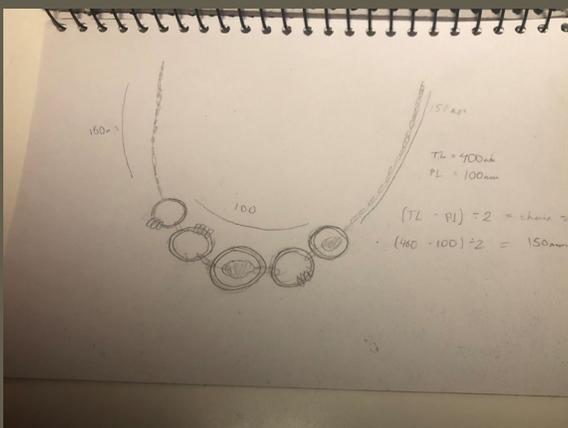
FINAL BRACELET

Reflection

Overall I think this piece was executed well however there were limited options as to which pearls I could choose from since we were in lockdown. I wanted to incorporate more 'childish' elements such as the rainbow charms and lollies but also have an element of 'status' such as the pearls as during adolescence everyone wants present older than they are even though they are still very much a child at heart. By combining these elements all together on a silver chain I felt like it was the perfect combination of classy but still suitable for a juvenile.

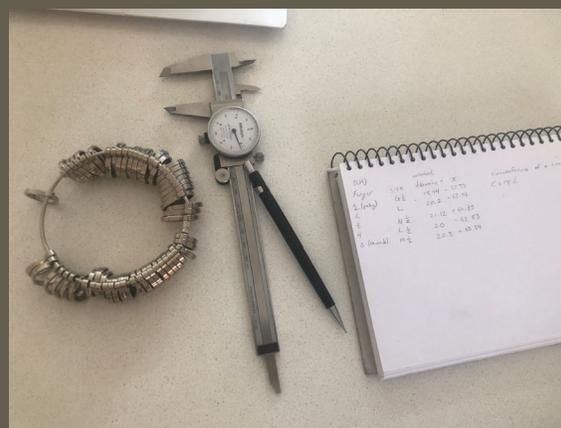
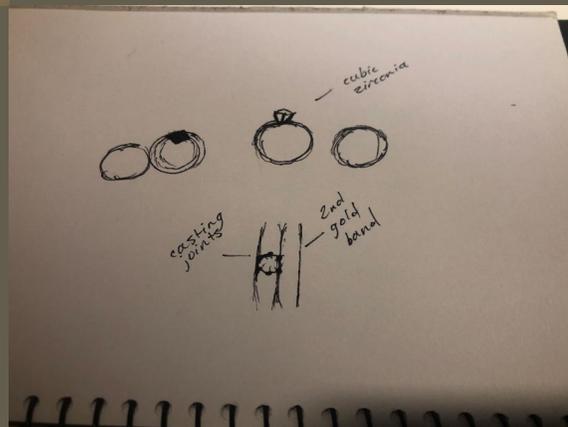


MAKING THE RINGS AND NECKLACE



I did the same for the rings and decided which elements would look best with gold.

I began by planning out the necklace and all the elements and sizes I wanted them to be.



I cut some sample sizes of cheap silver to see if that was the desired length however some were too short so I made a few until I got the perfect amount so I knew how long it should look when I cut the real one.

I then started measuring out the sizes I wanted each ring and how much material or length I needed of silver and gold.



CONTINUED PROCESS



After I had made enough circles for the rings and necklace, I filed around all the opening joints so it would create a seamless joint once soldered.

I then began using a set of pliers to create circular shapes with the wire. Once they were shaped enough I bended a little extra wire so I could cut off the circle.



After they all had cooled down, they were dipped into the 'pickle' which is sulfuric acid which cleans off oxide and flux.

I applied the flux and solder to the open joint and then melted it with a small torch so a bond could be formed and it would be a complete ring.



FINISHING THE NECKLACE



From here the ring with the cubic zirconia was sent off to the setter to set the stone in place and I added jump rings to join the rings for the necklace, as well as a chain.

After coming out of the 'pickle', an emery stick was used to get off the majority of the scratches and they were then polished to get rid of the remaining blemishes.



To place the pearls inside the rings and avoid extra soldering, I drilled a hole through them and added wire which was wrapped around the rings a few times to make sure it was sturdy.

I also added the smaller jump rings on the side as a final touch.



FINAL RINGS

Reflection

After the rings got back from the setter I was very pleased with the result. Getting the desired shape and size of the bands was quite difficult but not too hard as I could make them whilst making the rings for the necklace. The inspiration for the rings was to create a pair, building a bridge between the youthful side of life and elderly stages of life. As so much of the 'midlife' stage is about accomplishing goals such as getting your dream job, getting engaged, married or buying a house, I believed rings would be the most symbolic as they epitomize commitment.



FINAL NECKLACE

Reflection

This is the piece I'm most proud of especially since it took the longest and I learnt a whole new range of skills whilst making it. To represent the later stages of life, I felt like a necklace would be best as they are easy to put on and other pieces of jewellery such as rings and earrings are not always as accommodating to an elderly body. I decided to put pearls inside the rings as pearls symbolise wealth and through all of life's accomplishments, you have become rich with memories. The jump rings attached on the side are a similar concept, collecting your life achievements on one chain.



FINAL REFLECTION

Overall, I was extremely happy with how my entire project turned out. It was very challenging at times and there were a few difficulties since we were in lockdown for the majority of the task and some items could only be shipped in, which took longer than expected. I greatly enjoyed this task as we had complete freedom to what we wanted to choose and I was able to extend my learning and knowledge of this passion whilst simultaneously creating jewellery that I can potentially wear in the future. If I ever were to do this again, I would definitely organise myself quicker by ordering the materials I needed earlier. Even though the delays in shipping weren't expected, if I had of ordered them sooner it would have been much less stressful as I wouldn't have been unsure if I was going to complete it in time. \