

Brief of Work

The poem "Rice with Soy Sauce" evokes a strong sense of cultural identity and nostalgia.

With a simple bowl of flavoured rice, the poem powerfully connects individuals to their past and sense of home. Through this artwork, I illustrate the simple scenes of pouring soy sauce into a bowl of rice and sharing rice create an indelible memory, and show how simple food fosters solidarity.

I have selected two key scenes from the poem: the making of the rice with soy sauce, and sharing of rice. With the stream of soy sauce being poured into a bowl of rice as the foreground, the artwork echoes the title. The artwork also visually establishes the central role of food in connecting communities across time. Warm tones were used for colouring the stall, creating a sense of warmth and intimacy.

Despite the fact that the stall was quite cramped, and that the refugees were under-resourced, people were adorned with joyful faces. This shows how they could find solace in their difficult situation through enjoying soy sauce rice.

Contrary to the greyish, hazy environment, the bowls of rice and people holding them are illuminated with warm, vibrant colours. This suggests the beauty of finding and sharing joy, and shows their gratitude for what they have despite poverty and hardship. Textured brushstrokes create a richer visual composition, humanising the sentimental piece.