

*Untitled*

**Isabella Fletcher**

The topic for my folio was to look into depression in teenagers. I researched many series on depression and photographers battling depression. These photographers were Edward Honaker, Noell Oszvald, Minmsical Photography and Christian Hopkins. I looked in depth at their series and how each battled in their own way and to help channelling some of my own experience and turning that into my own series of work. From all my images taken, I chose five images taken in the studio expressing different moods. My idea was to overlay these images to show deception that happens with emotions in teenagers.

While researching this idea, that all the artists had different experiences when battling with depression and anxiety. While both Honaker and Hopkins both displayed artistically their own personal battles with depression, Minmsical and Oszvald gave only impressions and not their personal experiences. When testing out different means of presenting my work, I came across the transparency paper and saw that it was a simple but effective way of bringing my experience up to Honaker and Hopkins level. I think I successfully did that and used ideas and techniques from all 4 photographers throughout my folio. While experimenting I did not use much of Oszvald or Minmsical's work as it did not relate much to my final piece as it was not a personal series unlike Honaker and Hopkins. All my final images are in the style of portraits overlaying each other to get a sense of the emotion that is inside the girl and how this can be very different to the emotion shown on the outside. I incorporated teacher and peer feedback on in which order and style my images looked better in and how it should be presented to bring forth its full effect.

A problem I faced was what sort of paper I wanted to present my final images on. I tried on several different types. One was just on regular paper, however did not give me the effect I wanted and didn't like the colours on the paper. The second was canvas paper, this did not work out well as the ink just rubbed off the paper and the colour did not transfer well. And the last was the transparency paper which I ending up choosing for my final, it really brought out the colour and exactly moulded together what I had envisioned it to look like.

The intention for my practical work was to be able to showcase my own issues as the photographers I researched had and I feel I successfully did. When taking these portraits on emotion, I feel that you can never have too many images that showcase what you are trying to tell the world. Your images should tell a story; be a roadmap of the journey you have been on with mental illness but simple enough that viewers on the outside can fully see in. I developed this thought from Honaker and Hopkins battle and how it related to my own work.