Practitioner's Statement

Cover up
Amelia Hutchinson

By researching artists such as Del Kathryn Barton, Raphael Vicenzi and Danny O'Connor for inspiration I focus my second folio on mixed media, abstract art and portraits. I was particularly interested in how colours and symbols are used in art to portray meanings and emotions. I explored different mediums such as such as watercolour, acrylics and pencils but I found collage the most effective in creating abstract portraits portraying a meaning.

This artwork's intended message is that we are constantly 'covering up' our flaws and insecurities. Magazines tell us what people should look like, what to wear and how to act and how to hide our true identity. I attempted to depict this message by using a variety of different materials including magazines, materials, wool and netting plus paint and impasto medium to create texture and cover the face. The self-portrait aims to show how media influences our thoughts on appearance by telling us what is right and wrong and by using collage it shows that due to different forms of media we feel the need to cover our imperfections and hide our qualities in order to fit in to society. Examples of this in the artwork include using acrylic paint to show my true characteristics such as brown hair and eyes whereas I have covered these with the 'ideal' blonde hair and blue eye combination considered to be more beautiful. In my folio I researched the meanings of colours and thus chose to use warm colours; reds, pinks and oranges in the collage to represent the anger and frustration I feel of having stereotypical images forced upon me. Using techniques learnt through researching Agnes Cecile and painting with watercolour techniques I decided to have the collage and paint "drip away" to demonstrate that I was losing myself as a person and melting away. I also used impasto medium to add dimension and texture in the work demonstrating flaws that media tells us to 'cover up.'

Key influences of this artwork include, Del Kathryn Barton's use of mixed media, and the abstract portraits created by Danny O'Connor. I am very happy with the final portrait, how the realistically painted features gives the eyes a break from the busy collage, how easily it represents the intended meaning and how well the collage was put together. Influenced by Raphael Vicenzi I intentionally did not create a background as I thought the white was modern and sophisticated and a background may have detracted attention from the portrait and its meaning, but in hindsight a background could have made the portrait appear more finished. However, I enjoy the contrast between the stark white background and the bright, textured portrait. Through doing trials in my folio and creating the portrait I have learnt many new skills and techniques regarding incorporating many forms of media into one piece of art, a style I had never tried.

This artwork reflects my own thoughts on the effects different forms of media has on ones image of themselves. I demonstrated this through a self-portrait using various art mediums and materials and I am really happy with the final piece. Skills I have learnt through completing this artwork include incorporating texture and mixed media to create shadows and highlights into a lone abstract piece of art and how to create a piece of art on such a large scale and keep everything in proportion.