

## Practitioner's Statement

### **Anxiety**

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An appreciation for strong emotions portrayed through art was the starting point and what ultimately led to my discovery of expressionism. My body of work involves a highly emotional personal statement concerned with self-image and how the pressures of society can cause so much anxiety, especially on the young. I wanted to express these overwhelming emotions clearly within my work so they may be felt by anyone who views it. Artists that reflect and act on issues in their time of existence such as Jean-Michel Basquiat and Marina Gonzalez had an influence on my work as I found their Neo-Expressionist style involving the exaggerating and distortion on the human figure highly moving. I applied these ideas through using a range of colour, direction, line and tones which resulted in countless interest that delights the viewer's eye.

I took inspiration from Thomas Hirschhorn's work 'Twin Subjecter' - which reveals a mannequin acting as a placeholder for the subjectivity of others standing on a pedestal, tortured by numerous nails. Correspondingly, my work is trying to portray a similar message of how society's expectations and the chaos it causes is subjected onto young women and as a consequence isolation and agony can result from such torment. To convey these emotive responses a victim of negative self-image experiences I needed to develop my skills to produce a strong expressive piece. I was challenged by returning to my previous art training of 'precision is best', however this structured style was not ideal for an expressionist piece. I attempted to creatively solve this problem by investigating children's art as I found their liberated depictions of life the truest form of expressionism.

The processes I used involved being confident and spontaneous with my brush strokes. This was best achieved through minimal planning and a greater focus on the process rather than the end result. By erasing areas I was not satisfied with by sponging over them it allowed the previous layers to shine through and a gradual history of interesting marks was created. Using various mediums of paint, chalk, oil pastels and pens to create different shapes and lines resulted in depth being formed within the piece and this created further interest for the viewer's eyes. These free and impulsive marks created a graffiti like appearance that is similar to Basquiat's work which I enjoyed as it encouraged the viewer to search the piece for details and be delighted by the interesting effect they had. Some marks were merely linear movements produced to echo the strong emotions of agony the subject is projecting. The sky was deliberately painted to curve inwards to the subject of the painting to suggest that the sky is caving in on her as a result of the pressure she feels. I felt it was important to highlight the breasts by using lighter colours and direction lines that complemented their shape because the message is largely focused towards females and the breasts are direct way of portraying womanhood.

I believe I have been able to produce a body of work that expresses the strong emotions of agony and isolation a victim of negative self-image experiences. I was particularly pleased that my work reflects a style of my own. After the process of deeper research into artists I was encouraged to think outside the square and develop my creative problem skills and consequently I believe I have produced a work that meets all requirements of the brief and accurately portrays the torment that many young women experience.