

## Practitioner's Statement

### **Addiction**

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For my second major, my goal was to capture the emotional feelings and situations evoked from dealing with an addiction. At the beginning of my journey, I had found myself being drawn to Brett Whitely, Egon Schiele, Del Kathryn Barton and Marian Golmenez Emz. These selections of expressionist artists are all well-known, and who are heavily recognized for the bold and impacting qualities that are highlighted in a range of their works. These artistic qualities include the unique forms of distorted figures, variations of colour and pattern, marking techniques and emphasis of overlaying mediums.

In the midst of my journey, I decided to focus my major purely on the growing issue of the ice epidemic in Australia. Brett Whitley's style was the cause of my major's focus as he drove my captivation with the theme of drug addiction due to having his own works reflect on this aspect as well. Having crystal methamphetamine be characterised as highly addictive, my intentions for my major were to reflect how the drug affects the user. With this in mind, I wanted to be able to capture the individuals 'other side' by highlighting their transformation into a somewhat 'monster', their split personalities and the different emotions/situation they face whilst on the drug via the use of colour, expressive line-work, detailed pattern and overlaying mediums.

The media I used whilst creating my piece were an amalgamation of acrylic paint, water, burro and whiteout liquid pen. The idea of the body/figure was partially influenced by both artist, Egon Schiele and Marian Golmenez Emz. The face represents Golmenez's characteristics and the body reflects Schiele's style of work. With influences from Brett Whitely, I also used large, bold and free moving black expressive line-work to outline the figure. With this line work I wanted to create a gradual history of interesting marks some of which would be still visible at the end of the work, while others would disappear totally. Next with three different types of colour, I created the 'ghost hands'. These hands were intended to portray how the sitter was being consumed by the drug. Having them wrap around the main body, never letting the user forget about his urgent need. With these colours, I also worked in Golmenez's style creating pattern on the face and developing further interest on various aspects using organic and flowing line-work. Again, with the use three main colours of blue, orange, and pink I used a translucent wash inside the body to create movement and have the picture flow/connect with other artistic aspects. In a way, this translucent wash symbolized the characters uncontrolled emotions and split personalities that flowed through the sitter's blood stream due to being intoxicated. My next step was to create further detail with the picture by using aspects of Del Kathryn Barton's style, which I was able to transcribe various pattern work and line work with white liquid pen. This was also used to create further movement and visual impact. Over time, with the continuous layered application of paint, burro and liquid pen I discovered that the picture needed something more to emphasis its power. So I deliberately used the colour, orange for the background to symbolize the users hope to overcome their addiction.

Following the expressionist styles of Brett Whitely, Egon Schiele, Del Kathryn Barton and Marian Golmenez Emz, I have been able to capture the emotional feelings and situations evoked from dealing an addiction. I have also been able relate my major back to the alarming issue of the increased consumption of crystal methamphetamine in Australia, and how there is still hope for users to rise up from their addiction. Overall, this piece of artwork has taken me on remarkable and interesting journey of discovering how to powerfully express a message and issue to an audience.