

Visual Arts

Art Practitioner's Statement 1

The idea for my practical started with 3D moths as I had seen a year 8 art class drawing butterflies and cutting them out. Obviously, the moths needed to be in some kind of context. This led me to add a candle as moths are attracted to light. My idea continued to progress and I decided to add a person who would be holding the candle.

From this point, I began to think about what kind of emotions I wanted to convey through my artwork. The main emotions I chose to focus on were fear, stress and sleep deprivation, all of which would be experienced by the person in my painting. I wanted to create the image of someone that was being so heavily impacted by the fear they felt. I wanted it to be a kind of fear that makes you believe you are constantly being watched and followed, and a fear where you see things out of the corner of your eye. Of course, experiencing fear like this would cause sleep deprivation as you would be too scared to close your eyes. Inevitably this would also lead to stress.

It came to the stage where I had to decide what was causing him to feel like this and I went for the classic story of him being haunted. Before deciding how to incorporate ghosts into my artwork I came up with the idea to have it as my character's reflection in a window. This would give me the option to have the ghosts inside or outside the window. Upon realizing the complication in having the ghosts outside I made the final decision to have the ghosts would be inside with my character and a part of the reflection.

The scenario I came up with to accompany the artwork is that my character had been awake all night, unable to sleep and had been carrying around a very melted candle all night. As he was walking through a hallway, past a window he sees something out of the corner of his eye. This causes him to back track to the window where he sees not only his reflection, but that of two ghosts. While I could've made the ghosts gory and scary I opted for a different approach. I wanted the ghosts to look calm, peaceful, almost serene. Although it may not be an obvious point in the image I wanted to add hints that they were murdered and despite this they do not feel the need to harm others. I simply want them to be admiring the candle and the moths surrounding it.

In short, I intended for my artwork to display the effects fear has on us, how it affects our everyday lives and mental state. Whether or not the thing causing such a fear warrants the reaction they receive is another aspect of my artwork. Obviously, the ghosts in my painting aren't something to be feared, but people, in such a situation, would experience fear anyway.