

Practitioner's Statement

Excessive

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Initially, I knew I wanted to focus on portraits and ultimately be able to portray an image that explores aspects of emotion that were personal to me. From this, the idea of an individual's "struggles" and excessive overthinking's in their life evolved. Consequently, this is where my main emotion and idea for my major piece "Excessive" evolved.

Primarily I began to experiment with pencil as I found this medium allowed me to create detailed and refined portraits. I also experimented with charcoal as a medium and soon discovered I loved working in this medium as it allowed me to create portraits that showed depth through heavy dark tones. Through this I was able to further elaborate upon my initial idea of showing the struggle of an individual's life; as I found the dark tones portrayed this. However, through further exploration, I quickly became inspired by scribble tone artist Vince Low whose artworks adopt pen and ink as the main medium. I loved the way Low was able to aesthetically portray and create a face from nothing but scribble. Inspired by this I began to develop my own images uses this style of drawing.

As I began to further experiment with this style of drawing, I realised there was potential in this style to create a human face that explored the struggle of human life. That is, the scribble of the lines allowed for various aspects; one, the lack of direction in line represented the idea that life can sometimes appear as though there is no direction. Two, the outward lines allowed for the elaboration of overthinking. Therefore, I deliberately included the majority of lines above the head to convey the idea of excessive overthinking. I wanted to incorporate this idea of overthinking especially since I have found this is something I often struggle with, especially dealing with demands of Year 12 and family disaster.

I decided to draw my sister simply because she is the same age as I was when I found and learnt better coping mechanisms to deal with excessive overthinking. So, in drawing my sister at this age, and incorporating such unpredictable line work, I was able to portray the innocence of a young adolescent's life and how easily this can be torn away as a result of excessive overthinking. Therefore, I portrayed my sister's face to be un-happy, further emphasising the overthinking idea.

In saying this, my major piece is a part of my release and demonstrating how my maturity to deal with overthinking and struggles has developed positively.

Generally, although my major piece "Excessive" was inspired by personal experiences, it is also meant to be relatable. I can undoubtedly say that I am not the first person to find dealing with difficulties, especially whilst going through high school, specifically year 12. Therefore, I hope for viewers of my work, especially adolescents, to find some comfort; comfort to understand and realise that excessive overthinking is not unusual, can be dealt with, and potentially is what further creates and defines who you ultimately become.