

Practitioner's Statement

Speak No Evil, Hear No Evil, There is Evil

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My first practical was influenced by one of the leading issues in today's society, Domestic Violence. Throughout the World, and specifically in Australia, domestic violence is the number one killer of women. The statistics show that one woman is killed by her partner each week through domestic violence, even though there is a lot of work being done to prevent this. People, such as, Rosie Batty and the White Ribbon Campaign are at the forefront of this fight. I want my series of work to help raise awareness for this issue and visually educate people about it. My final piece displays a series of three charcoal drawings, capturing a lonely woman's fear of domestic abuse and her honesty about the issue, communicated through her intense gaze.

I chose to work with a medium I hadn't had much experience working with before, charcoal. My strength was working with graphite pencil, but I found that using charcoal for this piece was more suitable, as I was able to achieve the intense and harsh darkness that relayed the horror of my topic. Initially, I was captivated by New York based artist Tigran Tsitoghdzian and his astonishing photorealist artworks. Tigran is well known for his large, layered hyperrealism anamorphosis paintings, and use of the photorealist technique with a Contemporary edge. Although Tigran uses oil paint for most of his artworks, I was able to translate his technique through my photorealism idea. Photorealism and the scale of my work aided the profound message I am trying to convey.

My use of the charcoal medium was made easier by the use of grey paper as a background, giving me an already existing mid tone in my image. I used different shades of black as well as white charcoal for highlighted areas. I also incorporated a small amount of gouache into the middle artwork, to emphasize and achieve the bruising effect. At the start of my folio I experimented with graphite pencil and then slowly worked my way up to charcoal, as I realised I wouldn't be able to achieve the harshness and darkness that would be needed.

My final piece turned out exceptionally well. It portrays three charcoal drawings of the same women, showing different expressions of fear, but also assertiveness, communicated through her expression. I also wanted to communicate through the woman's expression, the intense pain and fear of women suffering from domestic violence, and what they have to go through. The first image shows the woman with a man's hand over her mouth, relating to the concept of 'Speak no Evil'. The woman's eyes are intense and filled with fright, which draw the viewer in to feel what the woman is feeling. I made the face of the woman on the middle image a bit larger and added coloured bruising to emphasize the abuse, to show people the 'evil' and encourage people to be aware of this horrific issue, and to help put a stop to it. The third image shows the woman with her finger pressed to her mouth implying that we never hear about the issue and indicates how domestic violence victims, are too frightened to speak out about the abuse they are suffering.