

## STAGE 2 VISUAL ART - Joshua Kildare

### *Practitioners Statement – Major #2*

#### **“Don’t Poke the Bear”**

Whilst establishing the foundations of my second major, I began to research a wide variety of dissimilar styles and medias. Within the early stages of my development, in order to contrast my first major and emphasise my diversity as an artist, I decided to utilise a black and white colour pallet. In order to establish the theme, my father was not a major factor in comparison to other members of my family within my first major, and hence, the creation of this piece was devoted to my father Michael. As a child, I was fascinated by comic book illustrations, due to the perfect proportions and complex illustrations. I have experience within the genre of illustration and evidentially, my visual study project shared similar themes and ideas. Thus, I decided to utilise felt tip pens and black ink as this is an area that I enjoy using. Therefore, majority of my development was devoted to idea generation, rather than investigating diverse medias.

Utilising my father’s nickname, “*The Bear*”, I isolated the similarities and differences between my father and a grizzly bear. Whilst developing and attempting to personify the characteristics of a bear, I discovered the concept of ‘*Zoomorphism*’. Zoomorphism is a literary technique in which the animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects, humans, and animal features are ascribed to humans and other objects. Therefore, I attempted to find the balance between ‘man and animal’, investigating bear eyes and exaggerating the general ruggedness of my father. Additionally, I decided to utilise a first person point of view in order to emphasise my perception of the world that surrounds me and thus, I experimented with a variety of diverse camera angles to recreate a my personal vision.

Transitioning into the production stage of the piece, I utilised a variety of ‘*COPIC liners*’, varying in size, in order to emphasise the elements of line, positive/negative space, and a greyscale colour pallet. Thus, whilst I reinforced my understanding of this media, I also surveyed a variety of graphic artist such as Frank Miller in order to strengthen my skills and ultimately to produce a higher quality of work. Miller’s use of *black line* complements character temperaments such as *anger and strength*. The black and white composition allows the audience to view a variety of realistic emotions and relate with qualities that are usually connected to anti-heroes or characters who favour their darker side. My father is not a dark character by any means, but he occasionally transforms into the “*bear*” if agitated. Thus, upon one of the trees in the background, I have placed the phrase, “*DON’T POKE THE BEAR*”. In order to create the pine tree, I photographed a number of tree around my school and utilised them as exemplars to create my own adaptation.

In closing, the creation of this piece has have allowed me to strengthen not only my understanding of foreign medias, but it also permitted me to reinforce the connection between my father and I. Whilst creating the piece, I frequently communicated with my father regarding my progression and I believe this has opened a number of pathway in relation to future idea generation and development.