

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Unravelled***

Thanh Vy Pham

With inspiration from sculptor, Antony Gormley and multimedia artist, Janusz Jurek, I was able to observe and analyse different approaches to creating the human figure. Where Gormley's sculptures focus predominately on the outline or central dominance of the human figure by layering different thicknesses of wire in alternative directions, Jurek emphasises the creation of the human figure by spiralling and filling alternative shades of white to the empty space to form depth. Additionally, both artists construct their work, allowing the medium to unravel or spike out, consequently, being the main influence of my artwork.

Through my work I desired to express the concept of stress relief. With the aid and completion of a brief survey, I was able to comprehend the numerous alternatives in which a variety of people release stress. Different approaches such as meditation, listening to music, sleeping, eating or crying and screaming were some of the approaches of release. Whilst completing some of these activities when feeling stress, when reflecting on my own method of stress relief, the first thought that comes to mind is running. From a personal perspective, running incorporates both physical exercise which is one of my hobbies, and the ability to remove myself from most stressful situations, allowing me to be alone and clear my head. Hence, by sculpting the human body into a figure of a running form, I am able to capture and represent the activity. The way in which the wire curls and coils out, throughout the entire body represents stress being released whilst running. By using three different thicknesses of wire and intertwining pieces together, I am able to create depth, dimension and texture to the sculpture. The contrasting thickness also represents different triggers of stress as well as the amount of stress it causes. As the brain/head can be a primary source of stress triggered by other thinking, it is represented by the thickest wire. Aside from the feet, the remainder of the body acquires a medium wire which has either remained singular or been intertwined to symbolise the different emotions that correlate to stress. Finally, on the feet there are extremely thin spirals of wire to simply represent unidentifiable feelings/emotions.

Although the initial idea was to display the sculpture in a stationary position on a tree stump, after suspending it to the ceiling to allow me to work on the unravelling posterior, I found that the sculpture would move in a circular motion. As I stood back to observe the movement, I came to the conclusion that the continuous mobility further accentuated the concept of stress thus, I decided that the sculpture would ultimately be suspended rather than bound to the log. Rather than completely removing the tree stump, it was placed under the suspended sculpture to represent that despite what one does or feels whilst being stressed, there is always something that draws them back, a sensation that is enrooted that will overcome the emotions and actions of stress.