

Practitioner's Statement

## ***Overcoming the Monster***

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Expression has always been my main motivation to create artwork. Art can speak a thousand words and this enticed me to create a portrait of someone who has influenced me over several years of my life, it will express everything that words cannot.

My art work expresses different sides of someone. I wanted to capture emotions through facial features as a traditional portrait with a contemporary aspect. Taking direct inspiration from Frida Kahlo's intimate self-portraits. I intended to capture the life of a teen who has been going through difficulties in school and home life as the two coincide. The unfinished shirt symbolises a lack of completion to her personality and to show that those emotions are not what completes her. The faces are defined and separated but the truth behind it is they are one. She cannot be herself without what she has left from her experiences. Incorporating colour into her eyes has a strong emotional connection to me and I aim to pass this on to the audience. Her brown eyes are still sparkling even after the heartache of unacceptance within her home. The faces simultaneously give off the impression that what you see up front is all that you see as each face is the same, however the different tones within the eyes are an aspect that expects to be studied. The right eye is a deep brown to represent the past while the left eye has new light of orange to show the change that time can form.

I have previously drawn portraits that usually contain no genuine technique, however with this artwork I aspired to advance my ability to create tonal variations where it was necessary. Parke Trent captured the movement of people in their everyday life, I aspired to involve this aspect into my artwork through facial expressions. Originally experimenting with blur I developed an interest in creating a detailed face. I intended to learn ways of producing facial features that had great depth, I feel I successfully fulfilled this. Focusing mainly on the detail within each face I was able to take note where certain areas stood out and others were hidden behind a shadow. For example the detail within the eye, the corners tuck in and are darker, while the line where the eye lashes sit is brighter. These small details are how I have expressed my gratitude to the model by taking my time when adding each and every element.

I experienced several setbacks that are not evident within the piece but definitely inhibited my ability to generate this art work with minimum time. I lacked the knowledge to excel at drawing detailed hair and that increased the amount of time I put into experimentation. I feel that this experience pushed my abilities allowing me to complete a dynamic and aesthetically pleasing composition.

To myself this artwork has a large impact on the way I see my subject and for that I feel I have successfully interpreted my emotions onto a page. Through the use of soft grey toned pastels I have created a piece of art work that I am proud of.