

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

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Nowadays technology impacts the way humans live from to-to-day. We rely on technology to make everyday instances simple and easy but tend to reject living life to the fullest. It is obvious that we have now lost connection with one another and have forgotten how to communicate. Social media portrays a perfect fantasy world but in reality, Instagram and Tumblr don't accurately portray the real world, with its ups and downs and lack of perfection. I think that people seem to have lost themselves and have become almost static or robotic, with stale personalities as a result. Creating an artwork which symbolises the social media problems in our society brings some realization about how serious these obsessions can get.

Babycakes Romero was a major influence as he photographed everyday instances of young people interacting. His images captured them on their phones instead of looking at each other and talking. How can you reject or ignore someone who has taken time out of their day to spend it with you? Exploring aspects such as addiction was essential as the research helped to explain the way these people think – such as always having Facebook on their mind or how they perceive the world through a Twitter message.

As this idea grew, looking into Banksy and René Magritte was the next logical step. Banksy is a street artist who is not afraid to communicate what is happening in our society. His artworks revealed how couples could not live life without technology to the extent that it would get in the way of being affectionate. This was particularly evident in his 'Mobile Lovers' (2014) piece where a couple hug but are also distracted by their phones. René Magritte's 'The Lovers' (1928) represented to me how disconnected we are in everyday instances symbolized through the covering of his subjects faces.

My final practical explores the idea that being engaged with technology can lead to ingrained robotic behavior. The self-portrait has the appearance of robotic features on half of the face and the background depicts gears that symbolise how the subject is being controlled – as that is what gears do. The rustic, earthy colours represent disintegration to communicate how one can break down and lose themselves through excessive use of technology. The subject looks as if she has lost control; showing no emotion but accepting the fact that she is now more like a robot and less like a human. In fact, her skin is slowly becoming more robotic, with it growing on her face as if it is a parasite.

Throughout the process of exploring, researching and creating concepts, I discovered that artists can explore many ideas before selecting the best. Each idea sparked a new perception in me, which prompted me to take it further. It made the process flexible as there was not just one theme. Symbolism is important as it informs the viewer as to what is happening in our society without obviously stating it, but alluding to a deeper meaning.