

## *Divorce*

### **Bethany Colclough**

The idea of the practical was first brainstormed through exploring a range of different topics and themes. The decision to use acrylic paint as my main medium led me to discover a range of acrylic portrait artists who depicted female figures in a different way. The artists; Casey Weldo, Alexandra Levasseur, Ali Cavanagh, Alice Conisbee and Tim Fawcett were all looked at in detail and influenced my final practical.

The theme that was chosen was the impact of divorce on children as it is something that I have experienced and I wanted to make a piece that can inspire other young teens to be strong and to know that they can still flourish and be strong on their own. The artist Alexandra Levasseur especially influenced my main piece as her technique was so powerful with her use of dark colours and surrealistic backgrounds with pattern. I really wanted to have a strong narrative in my final work. Every part of the painting had a symbol that is tied in with the narrative story. The narrow room pushing the figures in represented how I want people to have empathy and understanding of how divorce can affect the children involved.

The flowers around the piece represent how the girl within the story was able to flourish on her own and grew into the older girl regardless of the earlier difficulties she faced. The nature outside the window was the artist Levasseur who uses nature in the background and grids his windows. The young girl correlates to Ali Cavanagh work as she paints very delicate children and captures their youthful beauty. The man falling on the second canvas embodies that parents who aren't around miss out on their children growing up and they can never get that time back. His suit represents money and how usually the main source of support a missing parent gives is financial but not getting emotional support is just as important and often overlooked. It can be difficult to deal with. A dark colour palette and used to relate to the darkness, sadness I felt dealing with my parent divorce.

In order to accomplish lots of symbolism research was conducted into the emotional turmoil children face after Divorce. This research into divorce and its effects allowed me to gain new perspective on the depth and size of this issue. I was able to use symbolism throughout my practical full of hidden meanings. The drips of autumn colours represent starting a new season and to me fall is a time where we know we are heading into winter.

This use of colour also helps link the two works together and creates contrast to the blue of the walls (sadness and loss) of the room that the girls are in. I also portrayed the girls with serious emotions on their face which symbolises that they are not sad but can cope alone if needed. I used my own unique style which is concise and obvious brush strokes which creates movement within the background and was able to show clear correlation between the two canvases which are used together as one piece. #

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