

## *The Enneagram Trees*

### **Leila Heinrich**

The Enneagram details nine types of people (which can be broken further into subtypes or 'wings'), focusing on inner fears, desires and essences. Each of the sculptures is a combination of three Enneagram types. The first sculpture is a combination of types One, Two, and Three. The second sculpture is a combination of types Four, Five, and Six. And finally, the third sculpture is a combination of types Seven, Eight, and Nine.

Whilst in my investigation of wire work I looked specifically at Alberto Giacometti, I believe my work to be a sort of antithesis to his depictions of hopelessness and despair. Andy Elliott's tree sculptures specifically helped me in the creation of my own metal sculptures, allowing me to create my own complex structures which diverged from his. Eiko Ojala and Stacie Tamaki are both paper artists that convey themes and emotions in paper art via use of colour, which was particularly relevant to the creation of my sculptures.

Trees have, throughout history, been enduring symbols of spirituality for human beings. We project our hopes and our beliefs onto these lasting structures which may long outlive us. By pairing these trees made of wire with origami paper, I reflect the enduring nature of the human condition (by the use of metal wire) in addition to the ephemeral origami which symbolise the briefness of a single human life. Whilst origami is present throughout all three of the final works, although the second sculpture notably has only minimal origami presence. I used trees as they are both abundant sources of natural beauty as well as sources of spiritual significance throughout history.

These three sculptures were made to reflect the beauty of human nature, specifically the various human personalities detailed by the Enneagram. In my art I always try to reflect some of the beauty that exists in our world, and no matter what the topic I believe there is always some beauty to be found. Through my art I always want to remind both myself and those who see my work that there is endless beauty to be found in the world around us and the people that inhabit it. My work explores the complexity of human existence, mapping it across these three sculptures.