

## *Untitled*

### **Jessica Mignanelli**

The second practical began with an interest in portraiture and the ways in which a portrait can convey emotion.

Frida Kahlo, Masato Tsuchiya, Marion Bolognesi, Daniel O'Sullivan and Robyn Stacey were the biggest inspiration. I gained an interest in the use of symbolism to portray emotion when analysing Kahlo's 'Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace' and 'The Two Frida's' which I found particularly interesting in the way it clearly portrayed two sides of a person. This also inspired me to concentrate on self-portraits in order to make the piece more relevant to myself. Tsuchiya and Bolognesi greatly influenced my use of colour and focus on eyes and poses in my final practical. Exploration into the works of O'Sullivan, who incorporates multiple portraits in one, influenced my final decision to create surreal portraits that convey multiple emotions.

Throughout my exploration, I came to the conclusion that while conveying specific emotions through art is achievable, I wanted to capture the complexity of the human mind. Stacey's photography techniques in her camera obscura series and Bolognesi's watercolour pieces provided me with creative methods to create visually interesting edited photographs. Overlays enabled me to successfully portray both the anxiety and often overwhelming feeling of conflicting emotions, as well as how this can lead to self-discovery and personal growth. In producing a series of self-portraits, I feel I have kept the piece personally relevant whilst conveying a message broadly shared by the audience. Overwhelming emotions leading to self-discovery is reinforced through a sequential layout, communicating a visual story to the viewer.

The photographs were edited in predominantly black and white to remove distraction from the background and finer details, allowing the audience to focus on the message being conveyed.

The first image is reminiscent of O'Sullivan's works, aiming to give the viewer insight into the conflicting inner workings of the mind and soul. Traditionally, iris flowers symbolise personal growth and transformation, influencing my decision to use them. Iris' also represent the belief that one day we will reach the happiness we are striving for, a reminder that there is a lot of good in the world, but one must be persistent enough to find it.

Each flower symbolises a set of emotions and represents two sides of a whole, similar to 'The Two Frida's'. The white iris symbolises innocence, purity, harmony and hope for a better future. The red and yellow iris, reminiscent of a burning flame, represent negative emotions that may hold us back and eat away at our thoughts. The middle piece represents how the two polar opposites may come together in conflict but also harmony to make us who we are and give us the vitality needed to continue.

This piece has helped me develop as an artist considerably, enabling me to branch away from traditional art and discover an individual style and interest in creating surreal photography. Furthermore, I have grown my interest in symbolism and expanded my knowledge in photography methods to capture high quality images and editing in Photoshop.

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