

'Around the Bend'

Emma Waters

As a result of a personal traumatic incident I have created "Around The Bend," with acrylic paint, posca pens, and spray paint on corrugated iron. This piece is 475cm x 1670cm with a psychedelia style which conveys the day of the accident and my mentality during the healing process.

In the early folio stages I was researching animal cruelty and anthropomorphism. However, the inspiration of my piece changed completely after my accident. A normal day at the beach with a group of friends turned into one of the worst days of my life after losing control and flipping the car. I used the beautiful location of Fishery Bay as a starting point focusing on the swell and the landscape of the bay. I thoroughly enjoyed working in a psychedelic style and felt it was best suited for how I was feeling, as my headspace after the accident was messy and confusing.

I had flipped the car coming around the recently graded dirt road and lost control. From this point onwards it felt as if I had lost control of myself also. The chance of potentially losing a friend still daunts me to this day. I remember the accident all so clearly and the adrenaline that flooded my body was something I will never forget as I had never felt so cold and numb. After managing to crawl out the destroyed piece of machinery, I could barely even tell that it was a car on the ground. I chose to use corrugated iron as it demonstrates the wreckage of the car and how it felt as if we were in a tin can that someone had dropped on the floor. The wavy corrugated iron also demonstrates the winding, bumpy dirt road. As there was only a few scratches and bruises of this trauma I couldn't help but wonder if there was someone looking over us that day. This led me to the psychedelia artist Aja Trier, as she often uses symbolism such as mushrooms, eyes and bold colour to give her paintings meaning. I incorporated many eyes within this piece to exaggerate the feeling of someone watching over us. The messy splashes of colour demonstrate the messy distribution of good and bad thoughts in my mind. The bright red stripes of spray paint are bold to show the danger and fear that awaited me and my friends.

The abstract use of shapes and colour is proven to be successful, like the work of William De Kooning who uses bright colours and black line to create abstract pieces. The first piece of corrugated iron is intentionally brighter than the other. This shows how darkness can occur anywhere at any time. The use of colour on the first piece is lighter with large portions of white and yellow which convey the positive people in my life that supported me. The messy random strokes and splattered ink represent the uncontrollable flashbacks I have of the car in the air. Due to post traumatic stress I often relive the sound of the crunching car every time it hit the ground which is accompanied by the vision of the spinning world outside the shattering windows.

Using spray paint was a well suited medium as it worked well with the other mediums and the dripping also reflects the memory of me looking at the blood that dripped down my friend's head. As per Eric Waugh, I have used thick outlines to simplify and create contrast against lighter colours. The vibrant and fluorescent use of colour intrudes the viewer's eyes as this day intrudes my head.

Through this piece I have learnt that through art you convey your thoughts and emotions with patterns and colour oppose to words, with the messy psychedelic style allowing me to express the emotions in my head.

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