

## *A Time for Change*

### **Amanda Krause**

I started off my practical piece after noticing simple signs of toxic masculinity used within people in everyday conversations, with 'man, up' and 'be a man' most commonly heard. My passion for wanting to change this boundary men feel they must stay in to be considered a man, majorly inspired my practical. I wanted to display to the audience how toxic masculinity does not just happen in movies, it happens in everyday life, it is subliminal and common. For this practical, my family were a massive influence with my father and boyfriend majorly influencing my practical piece after noticing they were portraying aspects of toxic masculinity and wanting to help to stop it. I was also largely influenced by seeing how my boyfriend would cover his emotions and this made me even more inspired to connect to all aspects of toxic masculinity as I feel they are all important to share.

My Aunt had influence in my final concept of the practical, helping me to include all aspects of toxic masculinity with mental health, violence and expressing more femininity included. The intended meaning of my artwork is to capture three different types of toxic masculinity to showcase how it can be portrayed. Mental health and sadness have been captured through the top head showing his emotions by crying and being slapped in the face for doing so. Men expressing their more feminine side has been displayed by the man smiling wearing his flower crown whilst a hand is covering his mouth representing how society stops men from being more feminine.

The last man showcases how toxic masculinity includes violence with the man angrily screaming. Elements I am most proud of in my final are the face and eyebrows of the man wearing the flower crown. The tonal values, creating depth through shadows and highlights as well as the detail in the eyebrow create a realistic drawing. I am also proud of the expression created through the eyes of the man screaming, capturing his true emotions. If I had more time to work on the artwork, I would focus on the hair from the man crying as the hair looks out of place as there needs to be more shadows. I would also focus on the bottom arm as it looks patchy and you can see the pencil lines underneath the shading. This could be improved by taking off the top layer and re-lay down the shading. Franco Clun was an influential practitioner within my artwork as once I completed a tester doing a hyper realistic graphite drawing, I found I loved this style.

The graphite pencils are used to allow small details within the drawings to get every aspect of the drawing. I was also inspired through the close-up shots he uses for his drawings keeping the focus solely on the model's face. My personal aesthetic is leans towards realism and hyper realism, but my skills are not at that level, so I am improving on my skills with each artwork. I like to capture the artwork through every detail showcases every wrinkle and fold to truly portray my message. I also really believe in this topic and the effect that it has on males, so this largely controlled my aesthetic for this practical showcasing my passion to help change this problem.