

Unknowing

Lily Pearl

Throughout our lives, we as humans all experience times of ambiguity and indecision when faced with confronting decisions that life often throws at us. With this, people become so engrossed in the decision, ever so slowly being consumed by the notion of failure. Such concept reflects the essence of human condition, in which people become to absorbed by the desire for perfection.

Through *Unknowing* (121 x 60cm), I looked to depict the consuming feeling of anxiety when faced with difficult decisions throughout life. I was predisposed to study stress and anxiety within individuals after reflecting on the greater concept of 'the human condition' through portraiture. Rendered with acrylic paints to design a hyper-realistic illustration, the immense rendering of a divided mind to heart individual and body of adroit linework upon the respective gradient background provoke yet absorb any onlooker. The distinctive artwork is comprised of colossal expanses of linework ranging from trivial to vast segments, these lines of misconception are lionised through the meticulous detail and precision of the linework, mesmerising the viewer. Central to the canvas consumed by the linework, the physically detached portrait represents the meaning behind go with your head, or your heart, which is reminiscent of the indecision between choices.

Influenced primarily by artists Aykut Aydogdu, Kim Buck and Curtis Holder, I decided to explore both figurative, and unique portraiture. Inspired by the inimitable panache of his paintings and digital artwork, I was moved by Aydogdu to convey a sense of realism, with a hint of individuality into my personal works. The small intricacies and details of his portraits create an atmospheric masterpiece that draw the eyes to notice the numerous diminutive details that together convey the human condition. Yet another immensely influential artist was Buck, through her engrossing and unconventional figurative pieces which were emotionally charged, yet fluid, which was a concept I desired to carry through my work.

Holder's conceptual portraits are loaded with colour and never ceases to provoke viewers with his hyper-creative work. Holder influenced me to continue on with portraiture, and to include fine linework into my concept to convey the sense of anxiety and consuming of oneself.

The deep analysis behind these artworks was what influenced me to apply a comparable expanse of detail into my portrait work, making me really divulge myself into different means behind making such a unique portrait. 'Unknowing' 121 x 60 cm, Acrylic paint on canvas As everyday passes, we become so swept up in the pressure and apprehension of life that we neglect living in the moment rather than stressing about the future. Both the linework, portrait and background form a symbolic relationship with overwhelming oneself with trepidation of what's to come. As we grow, difficult decisions never cease, but these choices we make help shape us into who we are meant to be.