

Transparent Soul

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Transparent Soul is a large-scale acrylic painting inspired by Gustav Klimt's paintings, *Three Ages of Woman* (1905) and *The Kiss* (1907).

In my artwork, I wanted to capture the "loss of self" through the sinking appearance of a female figure. The three-part composition symbolises how the woman feels emotionally, physically, and mentally suffocated: a golden arch encapsulates the figure, creating a shield from the negative influences, as well as the gentle healing properties of human touch. The dark abyss (which is central to the female figure), echoes the subject's internal loneliness, alienating her from the outside world. Highlights of gold and twinkling stars accentuate the idea that life is precious, and not to be treated as a commodity. The female figure has been painted with despondent expression, indicating her frustration, and drowning in her own internal suffering. The idea of being overwhelmed or consumed by the isolation is augmented by the threads of her hair; it flows gravitationally into the dark abyss, suggesting she is being consumed and weighed down by its unimaginable depths. I depicted several whimsical, supernatural forms that pay homage to Del Kathryn Barton's style. These forms represent the connection humans have to the earth, and the phenomena of life.

Klimt's striking use of gold and ornate symbols and Egon Schiele's frail and contorted figures were integral influences in my practical development. To capture the despondency and fragility of the female subject, I stripped her of clothes. Like Schiele, my intentions were to create a rawness and unease for the audience. The choice of colour and pattern from the left to the right of the frame shows the spectrum of sadness to happiness, the audience's emotions altering when focusing on each third. Through varying shades of warm and cool tones, the audience is influenced to make connections to sadness, happiness, and loneliness, (which is dependent on their own interpretation of the mood these tones represent). As each third is tied together on the same sheet of canvas, it is to be perceived as the continuous fluctuation of emotions all human's experience.

Overall, I believe I have produced an emotionally intricate and sentimental artwork that explores internal loneliness and isolation. As my artwork has many abstracts concept, the audience is encouraged to conjure their own perception of the story behind the subject, look beyond the beautiful details to see a soul that is fractured and longing for human connection.