

Real - Triptych

Shikyla Brakenridge

My triptych titled 'Real' is a three - piece panelled mixed media piece on watercolour paper size A2 in Acrylic, Watercolour and Posca Marker. Featuring different forms of mental illness embodied as a distorted facial figure. I have always been fascinated with mental illness and its power to be expressive through art. Its ability to communicate the depth of emotion from the artist using emotive expressionism to enhance the artist's work. Consequently, my initial exploration of topics focused on Expressionism, Acrylic and Line work. Within Line work, I investigated the works of Jungshi and Neutral Fluer. I was particularly drawn to, the creative, reflective, emotive expression in their pieces, underlying an exploration of meaning towards their works. Jungshi's works proved to be particularly inspirational, as I discovered the style of expressionism in line work.

This provided a basis for my final concept. I realised that line work can convey movement in a piece through repetition or by illustrative line coming off the surface of an object that is moving. Applying different styles of line work, in combination with different textures and techniques, helped characterised the application of expressionism. In combining all of these elements, I was able to apply the idea of expressive artworks in order to depict my view of mental health disorders. I explored Neutral Fluer who utilises individual strokes and shading to accentuate the emotion in her oil paints. This inspired me to incorporate mix media elements towards my final.

However, Fluer's work consisted of inhumane, gory, concepts that were deemed sinister, which proved a vital insight towards my decision. Her expressive style further drew my own intentions towards creating a distorted figure, that was deemed 'unsettling.' This is where I was influenced to interweave the two concepts of line work and expressionism. Furthermore, I had chosen to produce a three-piece panelled design that structured my interest in mental health issues, such as anxiety, eating disorders and motivation loss. These vary within an individual's mentality traits, especially towards those who have suffered trauma. This prompted me to explore many aspects of my own mentality and examine my own introspection of conscious thoughts and feelings. I focused on the aspect of irregular and regular patternisation, providing a background, each pattern with a different style to accentuate the entirety of the facial figure. I focused towards the distortion in each of the faces to allude how the facial features are perceived. Symbolism is a significant aspect towards my work, my piece represents the surrounding element as an aspect towards my personality. An example is depicted through the patterning and the bold white drawn designs to enhance intricacy to the piece.

Expressing detail further illuminates the emotion into each work I had created expressing the warming feelings through the intricate patternisation in the background of the piece. The transition into emotive distortion and patternisation has been used to present real elements of a mentality that is not subjective; creating an illustration in the background rather than being confined in a toxic mentality.

I am incredibly pleased with the outcome of my work; I feel I have achieved a satisfied effect of emotive expression whilst utilizing adoptive elements of Jungshi and Neutral Fluer to form my own mixed media style and provided an expanded assets of knowledge on these skill sets.