

Neither Here nor There

Sinead Schubert

The practical piece “Neither Here nor There” is an acrylic on canvas. The overall concept of the piece was to illustrate the confusion and struggle teenagers face trying to find their place in the world. I used the three figures to represent different personal identities and how I am defined around different people. In the center of the piece, I illustrated myself in school uniform representing the large role I play as school captain. Either side of that character stood conflicts of interests as I represented different sides of my personality. One character which is spiritual holding a candle, representing a side of myself which is deeply connected with my environment and my beliefs. The other character represents rebellion and is surrounded by cigarettes, bongos, disco balls and pills. All of which are temptations for all young people.

Within the piece I wanted to convey and illustrate the turmoil and messiness of my own consciousness through the childlike messy style. I took inspiration from Barbara Hanrahan’s work creating large defined eyes and lips to create a focal point within the abstract figures. I was also inspired by the works of Julia Trembicki with the layering of paint, geometric shapes and limited negative space.

Within the piece I wanted to create a mood of chaos and detachment to reflect the feelings I felt whilst creating it. I was able to represent this through the childlike sketches and layering of images and lines creating pattern. The piece was created gradually through building up paint, using dry brush strokes, and creating layers which give the piece depth and texture.

While creating the piece I became more familiar with mixing colours and creating definition and depth within works of art. As the piece is very busy with limited negative space it was important that I created a focal point that allowed the viewer to connect and then let their eyes travel around the piece. I chose to work with posca pens and acrylic paint as I felt that my skills were strongest in these mediums and that I could clearly express my meaning with ease. While creating the final piece there was a few complications with time and with the mixing colours of the paints. It took me time to find colours that I felt would balance the piece and would not be too bright to take away from the meaning and overall unity of the work.

Overall, ‘Neither Here nor There’ is a successful piece as it conveys both a personally relevant meaning and complex and challenging themes. The style and techniques used compliment the meaning and grab the viewer’s attention with at times confronting imagery.