

Flow of Dislexiksic

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My body of work explores my personal experience with dyslexia. I created four different artworks to express different aspects, including those in the school environment. I tried to communicate this concept through a consistent colour scheme of green and red inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's 'Night cafe' and his further exploration into colour theory. Together, these colours are highly contrasting, creating a jarring visual experience. This reflects the harsh reality of dealing with dyslexia in an unsupportive environment. I wanted to make the images slightly repulsive to reflect the damaging experience for many dyslexic students in school.

In Australia dyslexic students are two times more likely to drop out of school. The oil painting [exsem room] was inspired from a photo I took. I was influenced by Expressionists and Impressionist paintings such as Peter Booth's "Painting" and Vincent van Gogh to exaggerate the colours and used a pallet knife to smear colours across the canvas. I wanted the paint to be laid on thickly as I wanted to paint the painting in a way that expressed my experience. I wanted the thick paint to represent the oppressive anxiety-inducing atmosphere of an exam room where you are unable to complete the work that you feel you should. That you can't do this no matter what. The words across the top of the canvas that are barely visible are 'how do you spell'. The words are not extremely visible to express the invisible nature of dyslexia and people who suffer with it silent struggles. There's mist coming out from the wall that has abstracted skulls expressing the likelihood of dyslexic students dropping out due to the pressure of performance during exams when they are more disadvantaged without special provisions which schools make extremely difficult to obtain. It also represents the loss of self-esteem and hope for the future.

The colour palette of adding in blacks and whites was inspired by 'Peter Booth' whose paintings are very Expressionist and the subject matter is his experience and abstract it to allow for interpretation. The digital artwork [dislexcasic in the wild] was created from a digital drawing mixed with photography, inspired by common dismissive phrases you hear as a child. I regularly heard these when teachers were trying to reassure me, but the phrase never helped instead lead to unhealthy coping mechanisms that cause me to bottle up my emotions. The digital part of the artwork was completed using an app called 'painter' using calligraphy brushes with 8 layers. The phrase is 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me' however some of the words are misspelt as I utilised Gudrun Hasle's ideas about using dyslexia as a tool when creating pieces of art involving words. The words were also distorted by layering them on top of each other in different shades of red to try and make them more difficult to read but still recognisable. The figure and child-like meanings of the colours and phrase were inspired from Jennie Watson. The same colour palette as the oil painting was used for similar reasons but I also wanted the green to resemble the "nuclear green" glow that is usually present in imagery you see as a child representing something toxic.

I outlined the figure of myself and the shape behind the figure as this visually shows how I felt about my ability to learn things due to teachers stigmatising my learning disability and making me feel responsible for their inability to adapt their teaching style to children with different needs.