

## *Inner World*

### **Maci Wilsdon**

Feelings, memories, and ideas – these are just three of the many components which interconnect within one's mind and define one's personality. Human personality commonly manifests in our internal morals and philosophies, and our external actions and behaviours. Due to our perpetual exposure to new experiences and information, our feelings, memories and ideas change constantly and rapidly, consequentially leading to a gradual change in our personalities over time.

Whilst one's thoughts, actions and feelings can be examined and explained as objective, individual instances, the collective instantaneous personality of a human being cannot be so easily interpreted. Similarly, the structures that comprise our physical being can be dissected and individually analysed, however innate interlinkage of these systems that allows life to be formed is far from being completely understood.

This connection led me to create a piece that explored the human mind through the metaphor of the human body. I recognized the link between the invisible complexities of our inner-selves and the tangible, observable mechanisms of the physical human body, hence I chose to metaphorically portray the vibrant, messy, and interconnected components of the human conscious using biological symbols.

Travis Bedel's use of macroscopic biological imagery and Avogadro's use of objective imagery both influenced my choice to incorporate biological symbols into my work. Through their respective use of symbolism, Bedel explores the intangible connections between humans and nature, whereas Avogadro depicts human emotions that cannot be put into words. As such, I observed symbolism to be a highly effective method of communicating non-tangible information to viewers.

The specific symbols that I incorporated throughout my piece were inspired by both my own ideas and the works of Leonie Schön and Leonardo Da Vinci. Schön's work – featuring histological tissues – aligned with my chosen theme of biology, and her aesthetically pleasing depictions of tissue cells influenced my own depictions of blood cells. Similarly, Da Vinci's highly accurate anatomical sketches inspired me to incorporate various organs into the piece, which I attempted to depict with anatomical accuracy.

Furthermore, the colour palette that I chose was inspired by the vibrant works of B.W. Usagi and Robert Steven Connett, both of whom use saturated colour palettes with wide ranges of hues. I also attempted to invoke feelings of uneasiness within observers, similarly to Usagi, through the visceral imagery of dissolving skin and unfolding intestines.

Through creating this piece, I aimed to convey the incomprehensibility of the human conscious. Just like how viewers can only observe my painting through their own perspective and interpret it via relating it to their own ideas, emotions and experiences, I believe that one human can never truly understand another's personality from an external point of view. Despite this, I believe that attempting to understand one another as best as possible is extremely valuable and rewarding, despite the unattainability of complete mutual understanding. I feel as though I was successful in conveying this idea through my use of symbolism, and intend to continue to explore the use of symbols in my future works.