



Pearson

GCE A Level Advanced Art and Design

**Fine Art
Component 1**

AMELIA

Total Mark 46 (36+PS10)

	A01 Develop	A02 Explore and Select	A03 Record	A04 Realise	Personal Study
Mark	8	9	10	9	10
Performance Level	3	3	4	3	4
	Total out of 90				46

Intentions

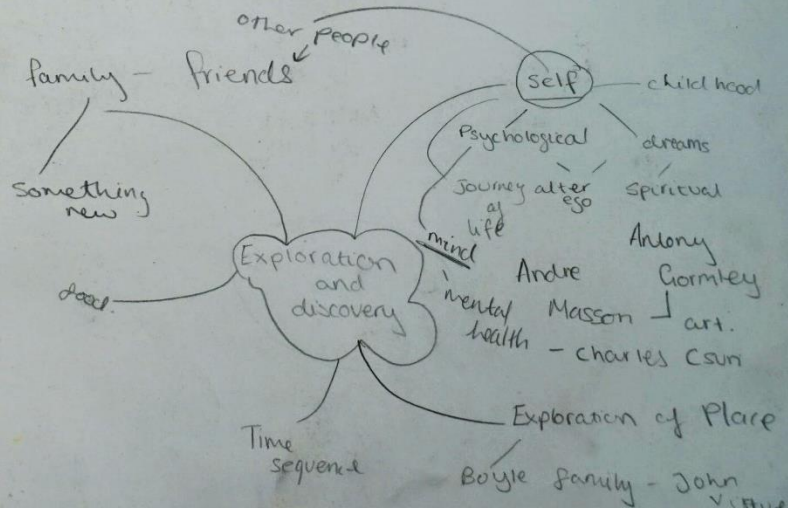
In the theme of Exploration and discovery, I want to focus on the idea of exploration of self and the psychological side of the mind. I think it would be interesting to explore mental health.

Out of all the artists suggested I am most interested in the work of Edvard Munch and his paintings, especially "Anxiety". I also think the work of Antony Gormley and Andre Masson, really represents the idea of the mind.

While doing the deconstruction on anxiety by Munch it helped me to explore colour as in my previous topics in GCSE I had not.

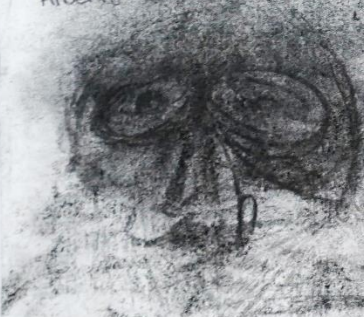
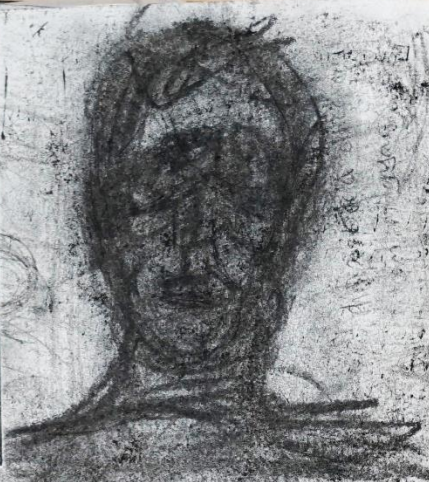
While exploring mental health I would also be exploring our surroundings as I want to do ~~an~~ explore the inner outer self and what people really show.

I will also be looking at Alberto Giacometti, as I like his technique as I really enjoy using charcoal.





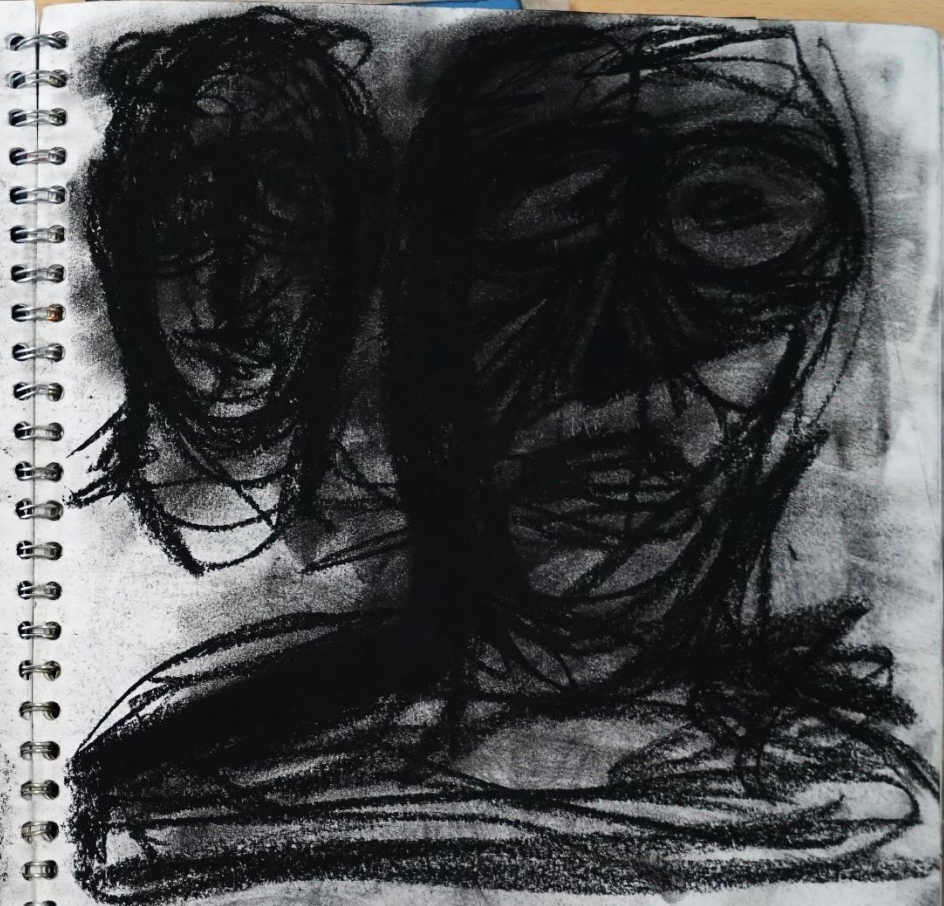
Alberto Giacometti



- willow charcoal



Frank Auerbach



I found Auerbach and Giacometti really interesting and decided to experiment in their style. On the previous page I used willow charcoal and on this page I found used black chalk. I think the charcoal worked well but the chalk is too dark.



d'illy
 boca di corcia.
 adam magyar.

take the
 pen
 of the
 puppe →

* I don't like using
 pencil - doesn't
 give the same effect





Artist Link - Philip Lorca Dicorcia



Philip Lorca Dicorcia is an Artist/photographer who sets up cameras on the streets of cities that captures the expression of a person in a single moment.

I find his work really interesting and I would like to trial this idea within my next photo shoot.

Although this Artist does not link directly within the types of media and my technique, I feel

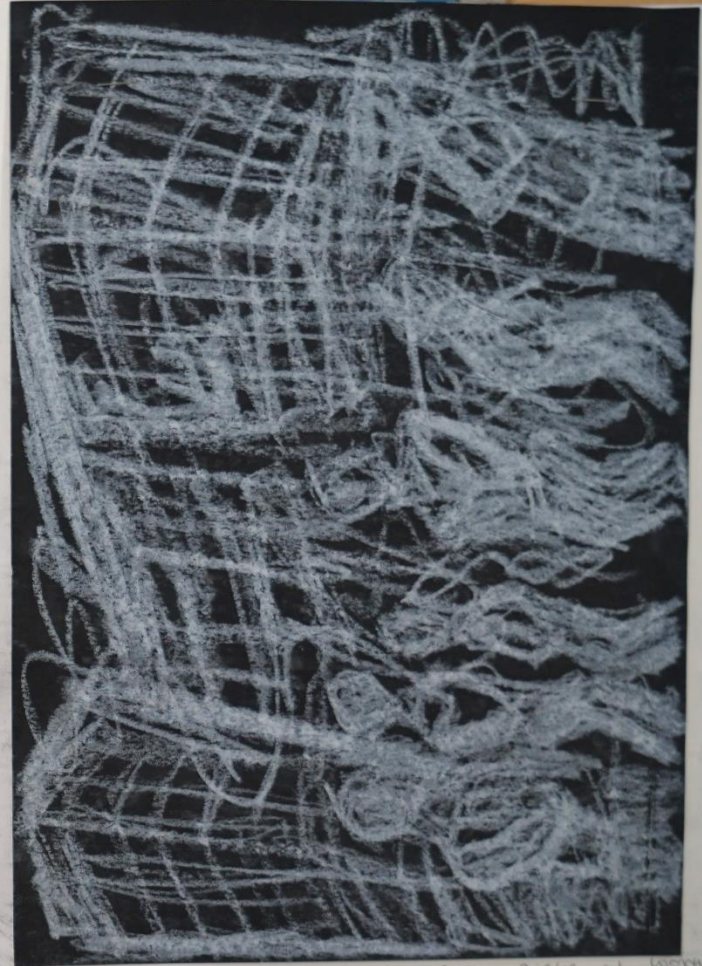
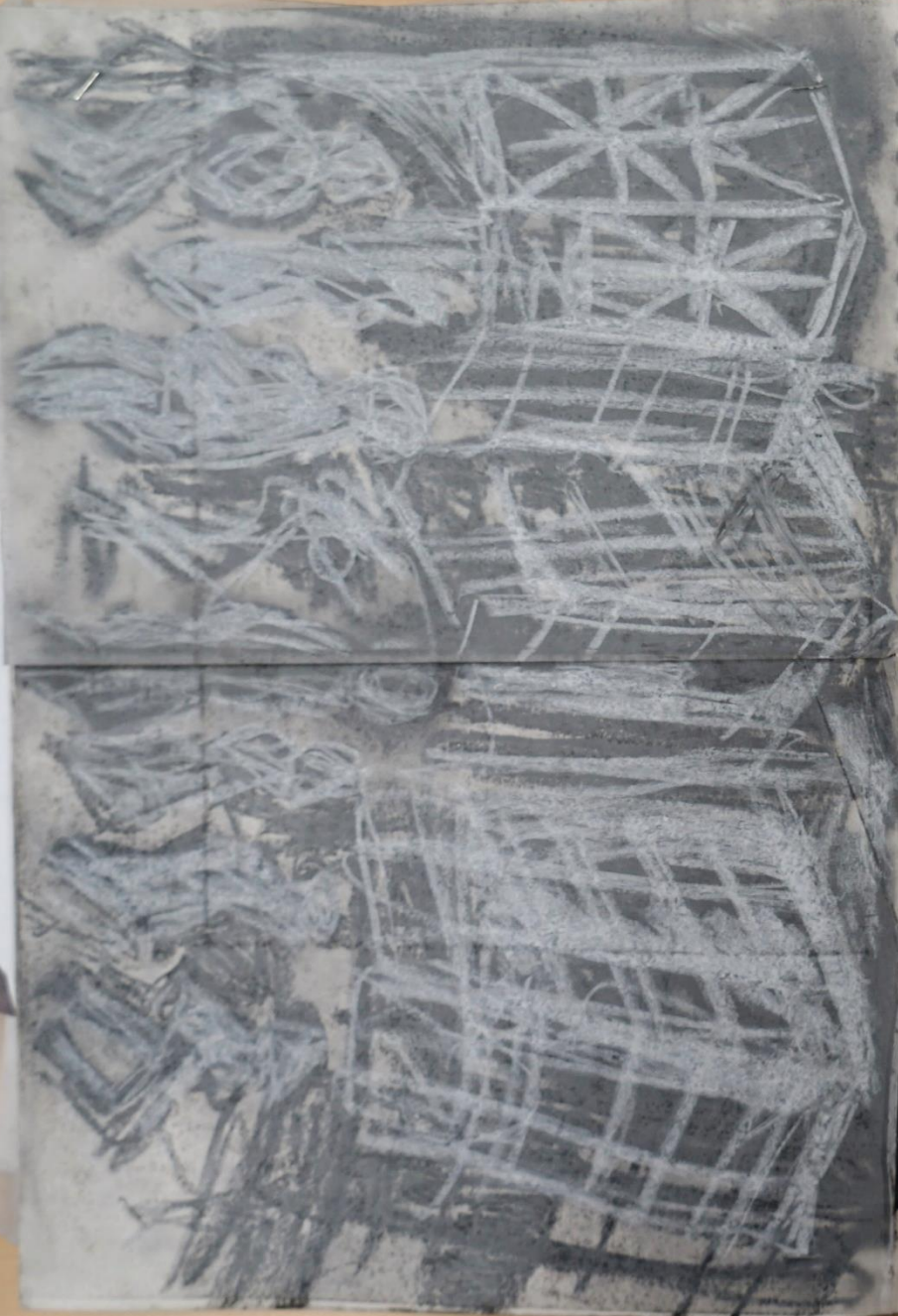
like Dicorcia expresses the ideas of 'investigation' exploring the idea of the inner outer self.

Especially when in a public area / environment.



I believe his images are effective as they single out single members of the busy environment of a city, and even can single out members of the community e.g. the officer.





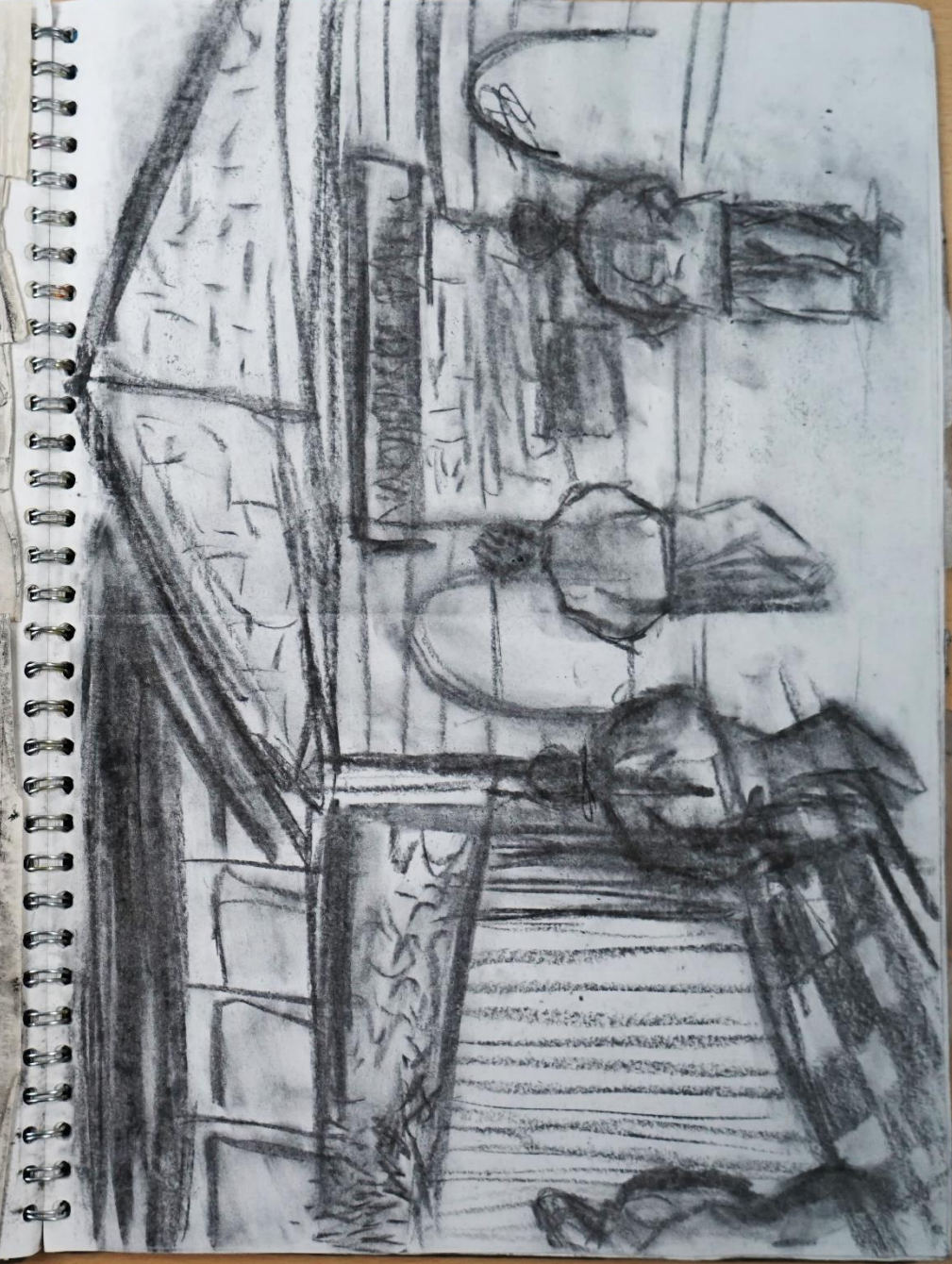
I Don't like this piece of work
as I don't think it shows
as much depth as the sketch
on white paper - however
I wanted to experiment on
a different background.

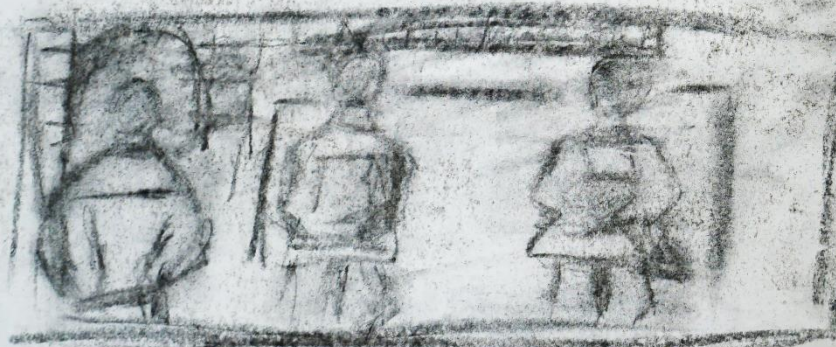


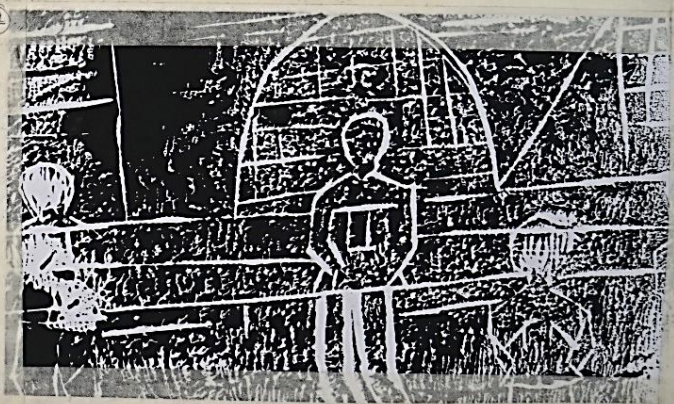
- Here I used Black ink, white paint and black + white soft pasties.
- I really enjoyed doing this piece of work as it was a bit of experimentation
- In the photo it is not clear but the people at the bottom of the picture are in black pasties while the rest of the image is out of paint and ink.
- I think I think this piece of work has helped me decide what sort of style and media I should use within my project
- It has also made me think of the work of James Barnes, but in particular her printing.













I really like the colours coming through



I decided to do lino printing to experiment with different media.

I think print on the newspaper is really effective as the colours from the plate makes the image printed look like there are street lights which I think is a good idea to incorporate within my work.

Richard Serra, 'Verb list'

• **To tear** - I tore a image of the lino printing and. Placed it back together. As I was trying to fit the pieces back together I began to get agnivated. The process of this made me realise how different people can address a situation, and that one missing part of picture or a muddled up picture can demonstrate a persons mind. I am really glad I have been through this process as Serrai work is not only about the final product but The process.

Richard Serra, 'Verb List (Companion): Actions to Release to Unleash' (1967-1969)

to roll	to curve	to scatter	to modulate
to create	to lift	to arrange	to distill
to hold	to inlay	to repair	of waves
to store	to impress	to discard	of electromagnetic
to bend	to fire	to pair	of inertia
to shorten	to flood	to distribute	of ionization
to twist	to smear	to surface	of polarization
to dapple	to rotate	to compliment	of refraction
to trample	to swirl	to enclose	of color
to share	to support	to surround	of reflection
to tear	to hook	to encircle	of equilibrium
to clip	to suspend	to hole	of symmetry
to split	to spread	to cover	of fraction
to cut	to hang	to wrap	to stretch
to sever	to collect	to dig	to bounce
to drop	to gather	to tie	to erase
to remove	of tension	to weave	to spray
to simplify	of entropy	to join	to systematize
to differ	of nature	to match	to order
to disarrange	of grouping	to laminate	to force
to open	of layering	to bond	of mapping
to mix	of feeling	to hinge	of location
to splash	to grasp	to mark	of context
to knit	to tighten	to expand	of time
to spill	to bundle	to dilate	of cabozation
to droop	to heap	to dilate	to continue
to flow	to gather	to light	

• I would like to use those techniques in future as it could help me advance in my project and develop my intentions and ideas.







- Janet Burns
- John Virne
- Cacometi
- London busy
- people's emotions



These quick sketches were to show the style of drawing I want to apply within my art

Pinterest

I have printed some photos from Pinterest to gain some ideas to develop my project more.



Emma Parker - Health Therapy - Could monitor how your health therapy...
Painted from 2010-2011



Kwang-Ho Shin, Oil 2013, Painting [27] untitled oil &...



Oil untitled oil & charcoal on canvas 2013 4x4.5 cm Kwang-Ho Shin



Kwang-Ho Shin # 479



Magazine - Massive Charcoal and Oil Paintings by Shin



Magazine - Massive Charcoal and Oil Paintings by Shin



Figures by Anthony Comery | Saw these hanging from the...



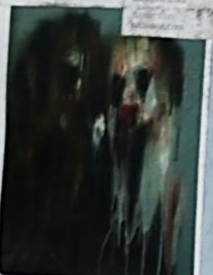
[WSS&RSCHN] # 694



Oil Untitled Color Oil Paper 2013 20 x 25 cm Kwang-Ho Shin



Charcoal on Canvas 2013 by Kwang-Ho Shin Oil on Canvas 2013 by Kwang-Ho Shin



Beautifully Haunting Marco Riva Inspired by dreams, mental...



my mood today # 374



Lorena Cosba | Possibility with students-a self portrait... by Lorena Cosba

saved from blog.paperartsy.co.uk



Kwang-Ho Shin # 110



In future I will use thicker string so it will stick better.



I don't like this as it is too rough



I want to go on to do more precise sketching for a variety of media within my project

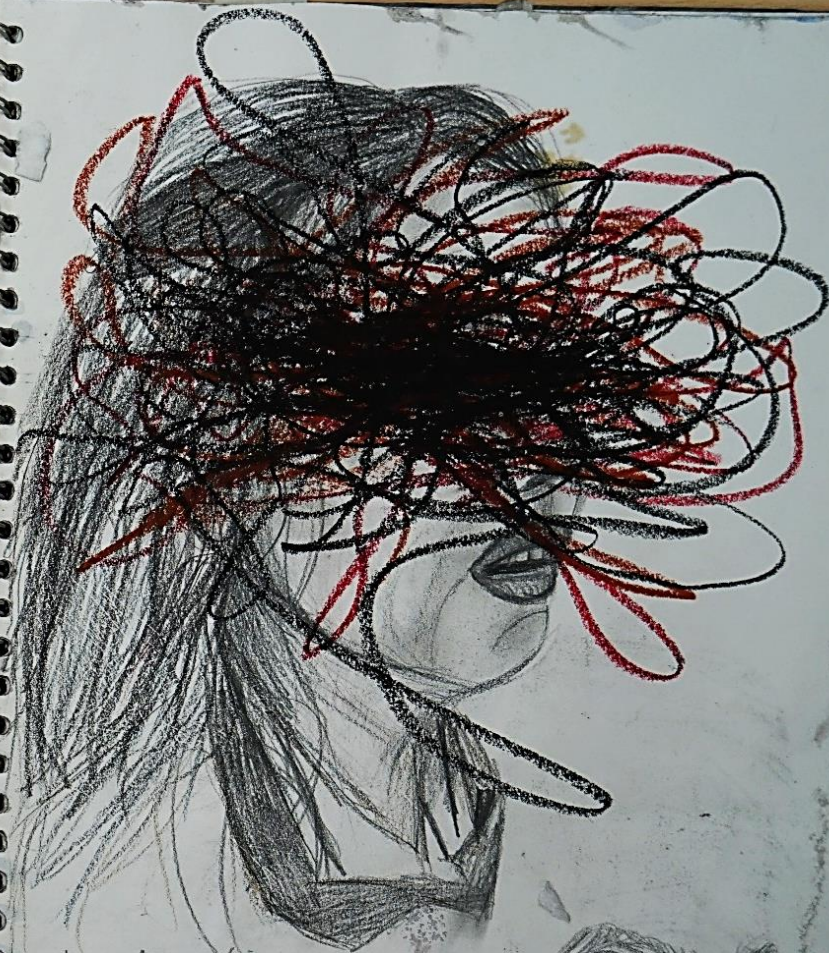
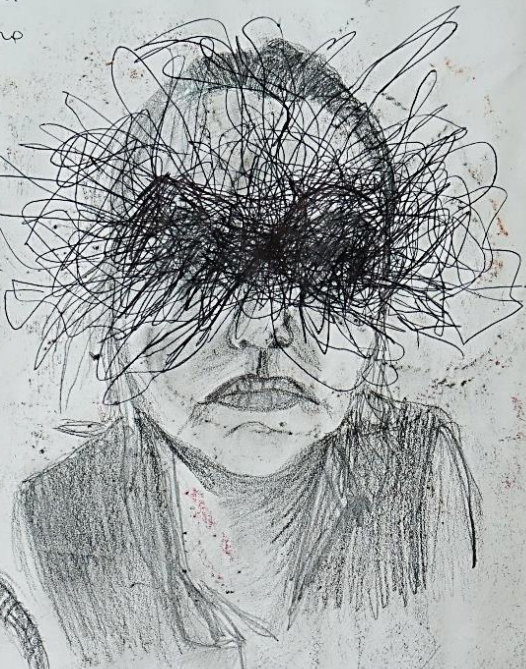


maybe try in pen.

Inspired by Pinterest

I wanted to do some
Precise sketches
with some of the
experimental ideas
I found on
Pinterest.

I am really happy
with the results.
An want to continue
to develop these
few ideas.

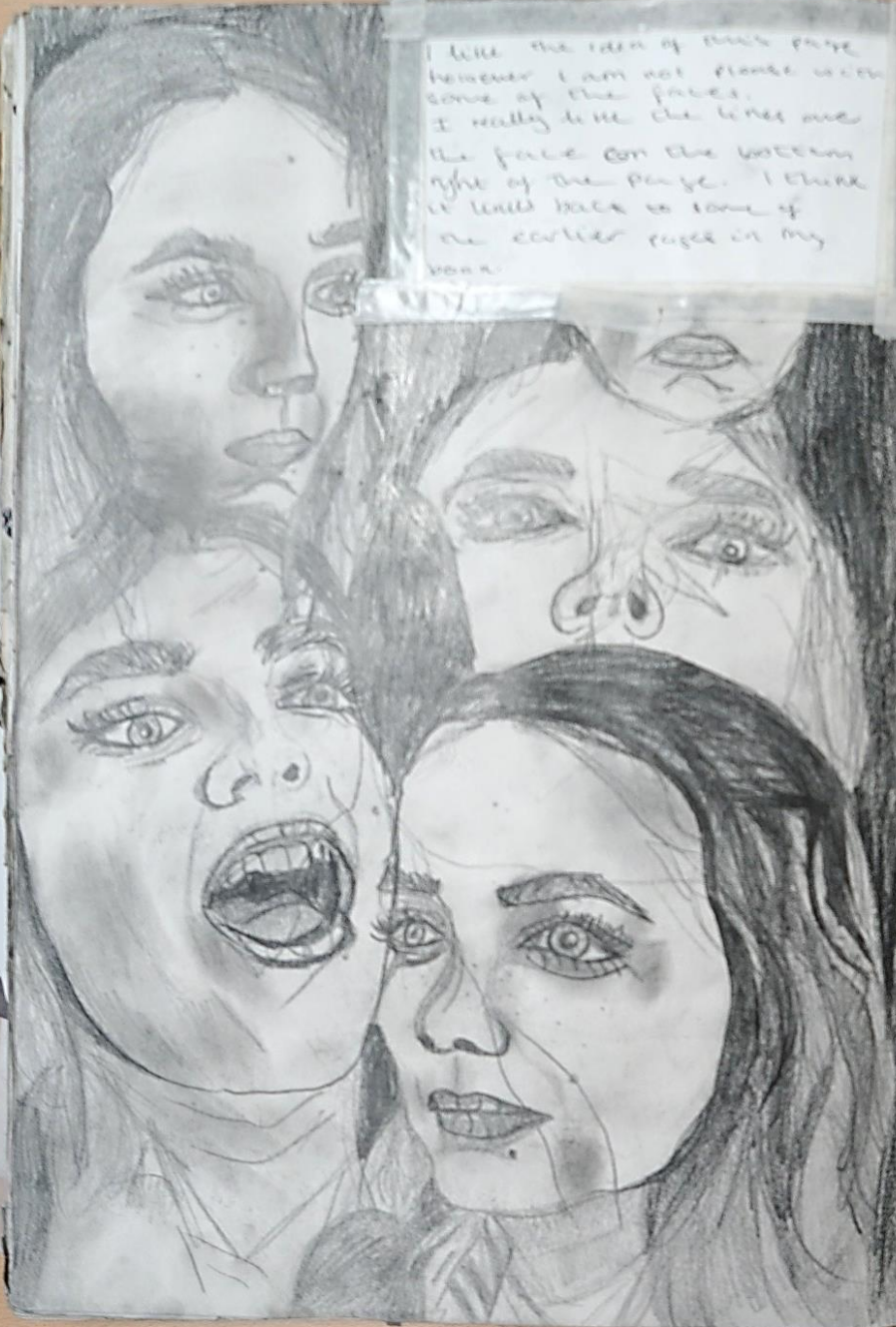


I really liked these
sketches as it represented
the contrast in how we
may look and seem but
the busy mindset we have.





I like the idea of this page
however I am not please with
some of the faces.
I really like the lines over
the face on the bottom
right of the page. I think
it lends back to some of
the earlier pages in my
book.



I used the
tissue paper
to represent
layers that
may wash us
down or fold
us out due to
the distress
they may cause



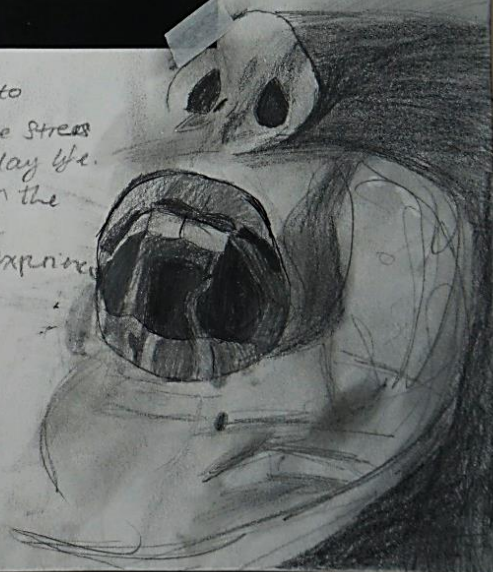
Tissue Paper Photoshoot.



I wanted to experiment
trying tissue paper over
a face to distort the face
to show deeper expressions.

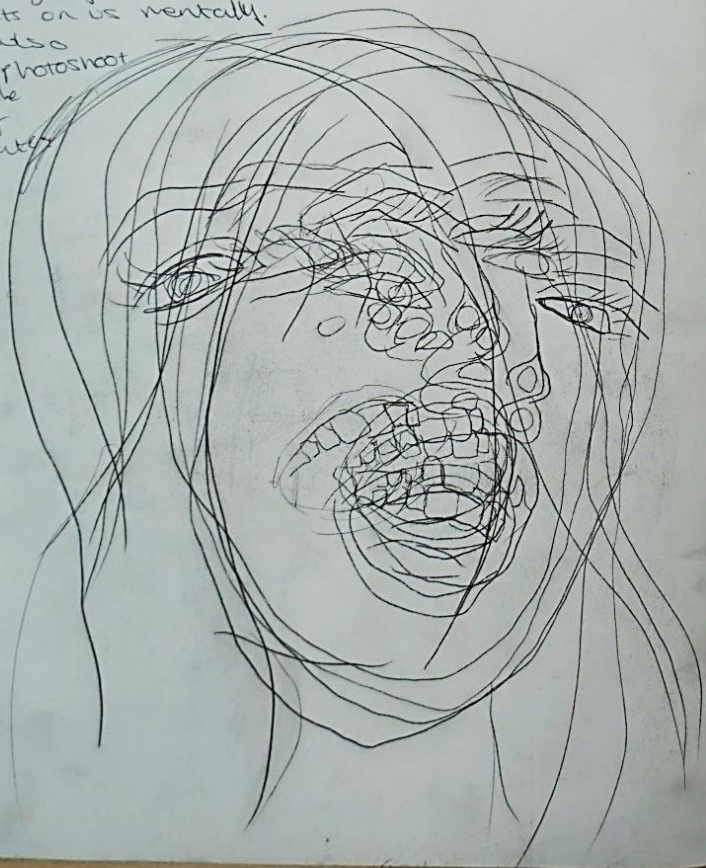


I used tissue paper to
represent layers of maybe stress
we face in day to day life.
The struggling through the
tissue paper shows the
discomfort we may experience.

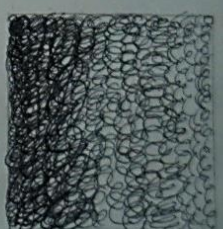
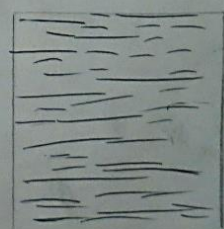
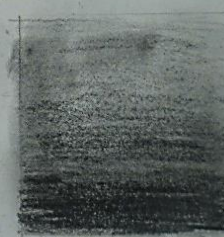
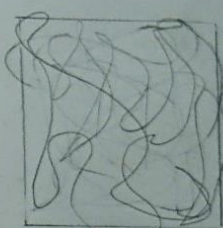
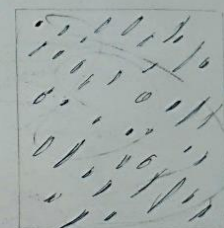
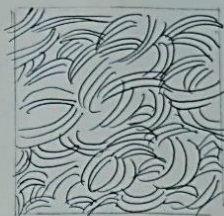
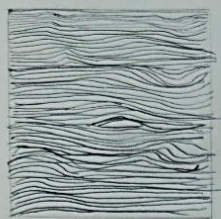


Development of Ideas

I have started to develop my ideas, while still focusing on portraits I also am focusing on the technique I used at the beginning of this epic. The fast, abstract technique that presents the busyness of life and how it impacts on us mentally. I will also do another photoshoot to further the exploration of mental states.

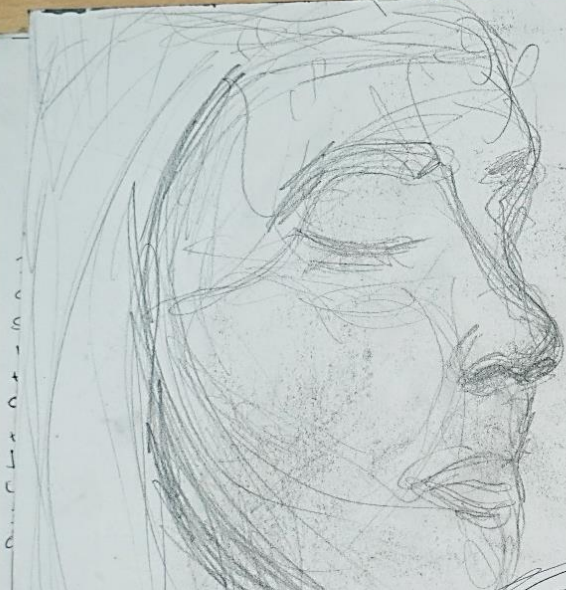


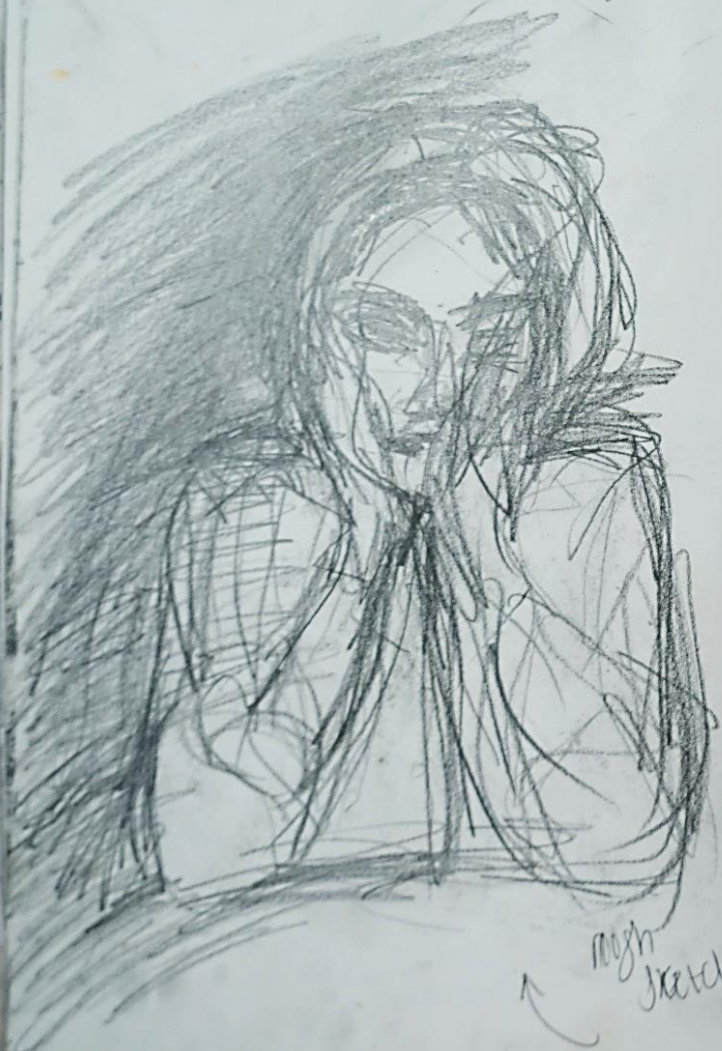
Mark Making



I want to
express the
disgust and
mood of someone
who may have
a mental illness
e.g. depression,
anxiety etc.

I believe the rough
sketches ~~are~~ and
technique I use
represents this
well





↑
rough sketch

Since I have been exploring Van Gogh's work within my personal study, I wanted to incorporate more colour. I have used an orange/yellow ink representing happiness, but the colour slowly drips down a person who I have drawn in charcoal. I wanted to show that we may be content on the outside but on the inside we may be in a different mental state.



In future work
I use colour
I am going to
use darker colours
to show depth, not
colour to represent
emotion. I don't
but this page of
I don't really like
using colour as I don't
believe in art without my
topic



Analysis of Sketchbook Page.

I have really enjoyed doing the 2 previous pages as I have been able to use the technique that I believe I am stronger at. I prefer the one that is just black and white as I ~~was~~ was able to sustain the definition of the face while still using expressive use of soft pastels, chalk and white acrylic paint.

To develop this idea I am going to do a piece outside of the sketchbook.



I tried to use colour in this piece of work however, I believe the better outcome was the black and white one as I believe it shows more depth and tone where shading is necessary.



Outcome



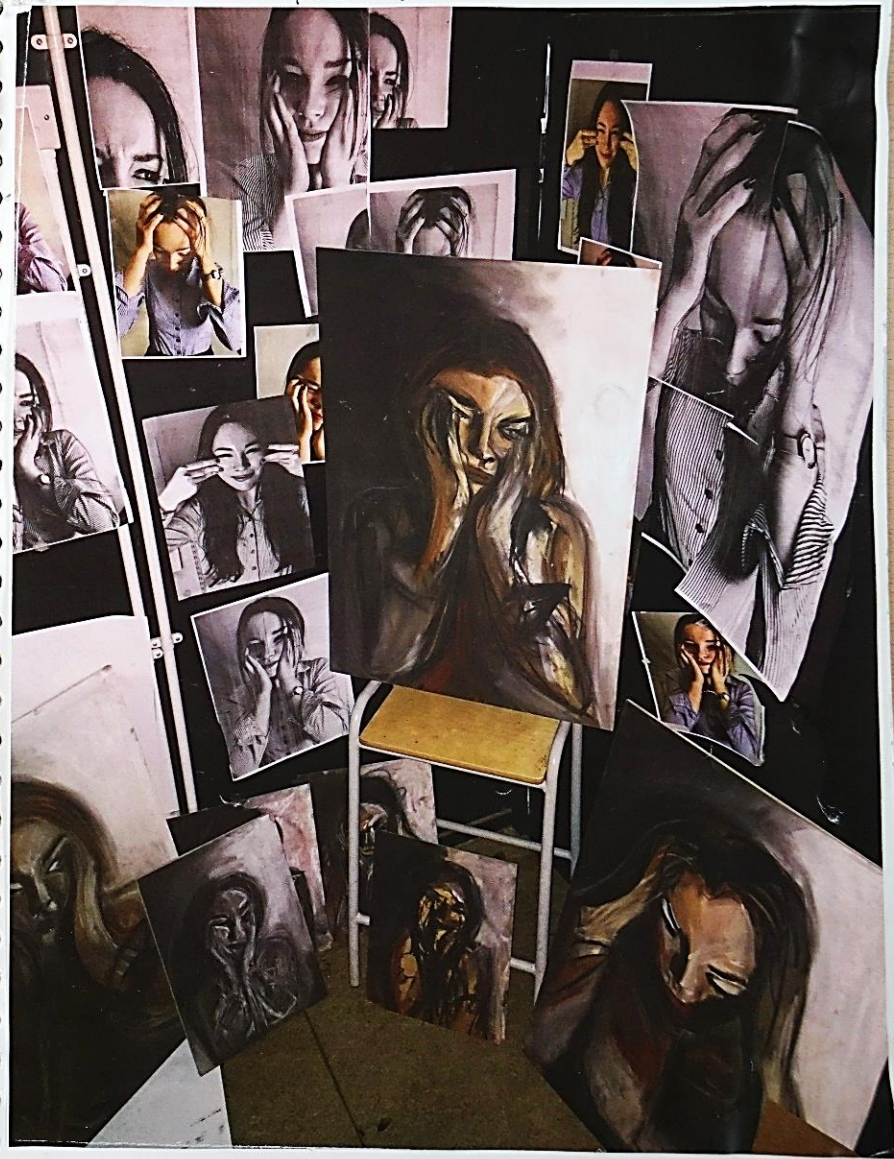
I am really happy with this outcome. I use chalk and soft pastels on an MDF board. I like the fact that the wood still peels through the chalk as it is almost like the skin tone. I am pleased with the shading and tone on the eye and nose as I believe it shows depth. I think I prefer the outcome using just chalk than the sketchbook page as I use chalk and white paint, but the outcome has better definition so an overall better effect.



The first 3 pieces
were very quick. ↑
I painted the MDF
first in a yellow/white
colour, however
I believe that this
made it harder to
draw with pastels on.
I did all 3 at the
same time so they
would connect, however
I am not happy
with the outcome

← I am really
happy with this
outcome, and
although it is
still a quick
drawing, I put
a lot more detail
into this.
I am really
happy with
the shading
as although
it's an abstract
piece, you
can ~~quite~~
clearly see
the detail on
the face.

→ Final Outcome (with 2 extra pieces)
(exam)





Plan for Exam piece

Different photos of Caitlin - different emotions
Big MDI



Then in dark room surround Caitlin
by pictures





Chiaroscuro - photography
caravaggio - like to - peasant with
bonnet - dog.

Evaluation



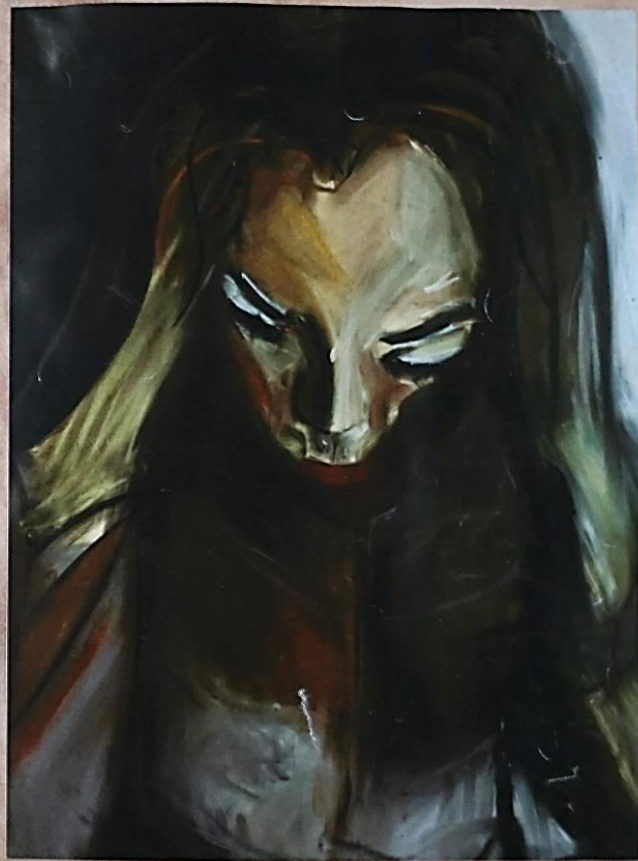
To create this I gathered all the photos I had taken and all of my outtakes, placed them in a dark room and took a picture with a flash. I wanted to represent the anxiety and claustrophobia we can feel from stress.

Process (Time lapse)



When using the charcoal I use expressive quick motions.
I fixed myself using the time lapse filter during an
MSP board.

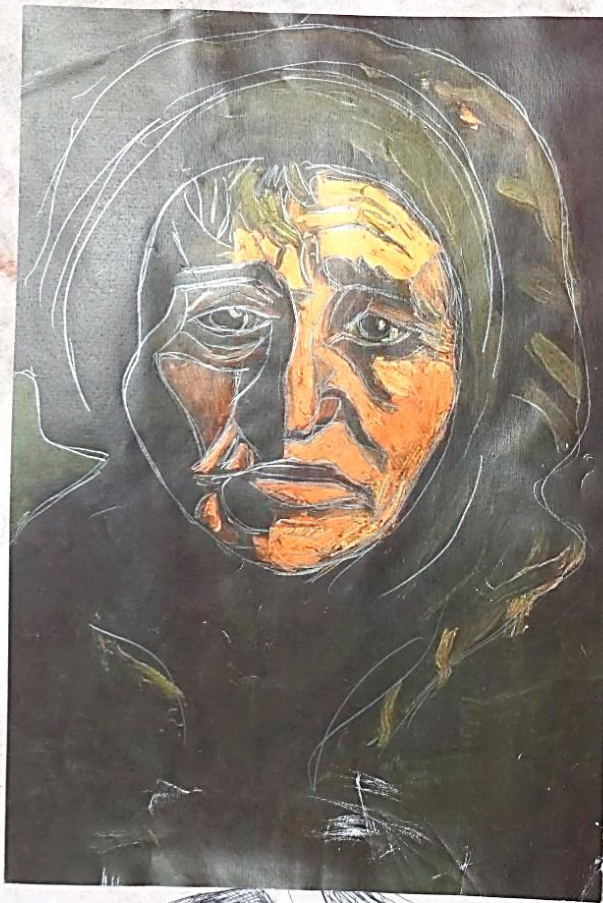
Outcome



I am really happy with this outcome
as I think the shadows and lighting
are ~~accurate~~ accurate.
I found the angle of the picture hard
to duplicate, however overall
I am pleased with it.

van Gogh → The Peasant with
the dark Bonnet

The Peasant
with
the dark
bonnet



Sally Mann



→ Mann focuses on images of her own children in their natural state to capture "the confusing emotions + developing identities of adolescents."

What I love about Mann's work is that it is truly up to your interpretation.

I think her work strongly links to my current work of the portrait charcoal images.

You cannot focus on anything apart from the mood being expressed to the viewer.



Development of ideas.

Looking back to the final piece I did for my work, I think I want to go further in experimenting how we may view ourselves.

I also really enjoyed doing presenting my final piece as an installation, so I would like to maybe improve the set up but still work towards an installation.

I'm really interested in the idea of incorporating interactive mirrors into my work. I have currently been experimenting with paper and the detailed lines of a crumpled piece of paper. This stemmed from the lack of ideas I had as I was just starting as a blank piece of paper as I have been looking into this I have been making lines with the crumpled piece of paper and making a broken mirror. I find the idea of a broken mirror and a reflection very interesting and I believe it would fit in well with my previous artwork.





- I like that there is no eye contact with the camera.

Photoshoot on eventually over but the pictures of crumpled paper to express the imagery of 'feeding' * = will use

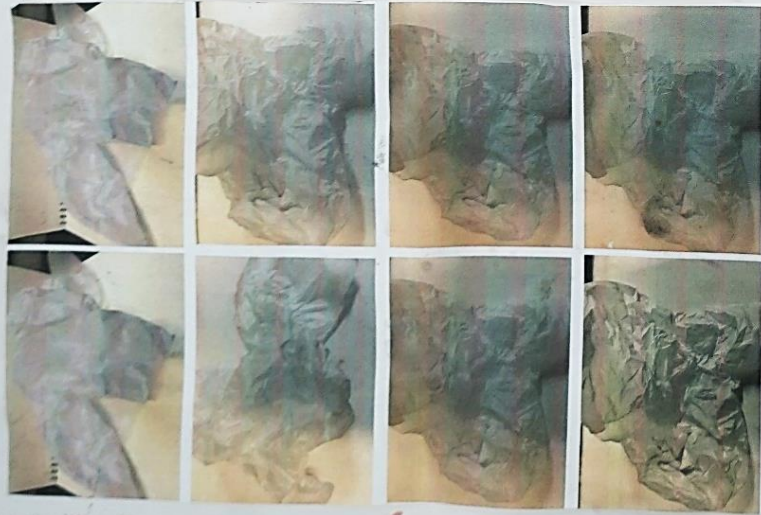


- covering of paper onto original surfaces.



- photoshoot of crumpled paper. I think this feels less really. made me focus on the marks more.





I wanted to experiment with different types of paper/tissue to see how I could create larger areas of an image.

Here I use tissue paper and water colours



parts of tissue fallen off

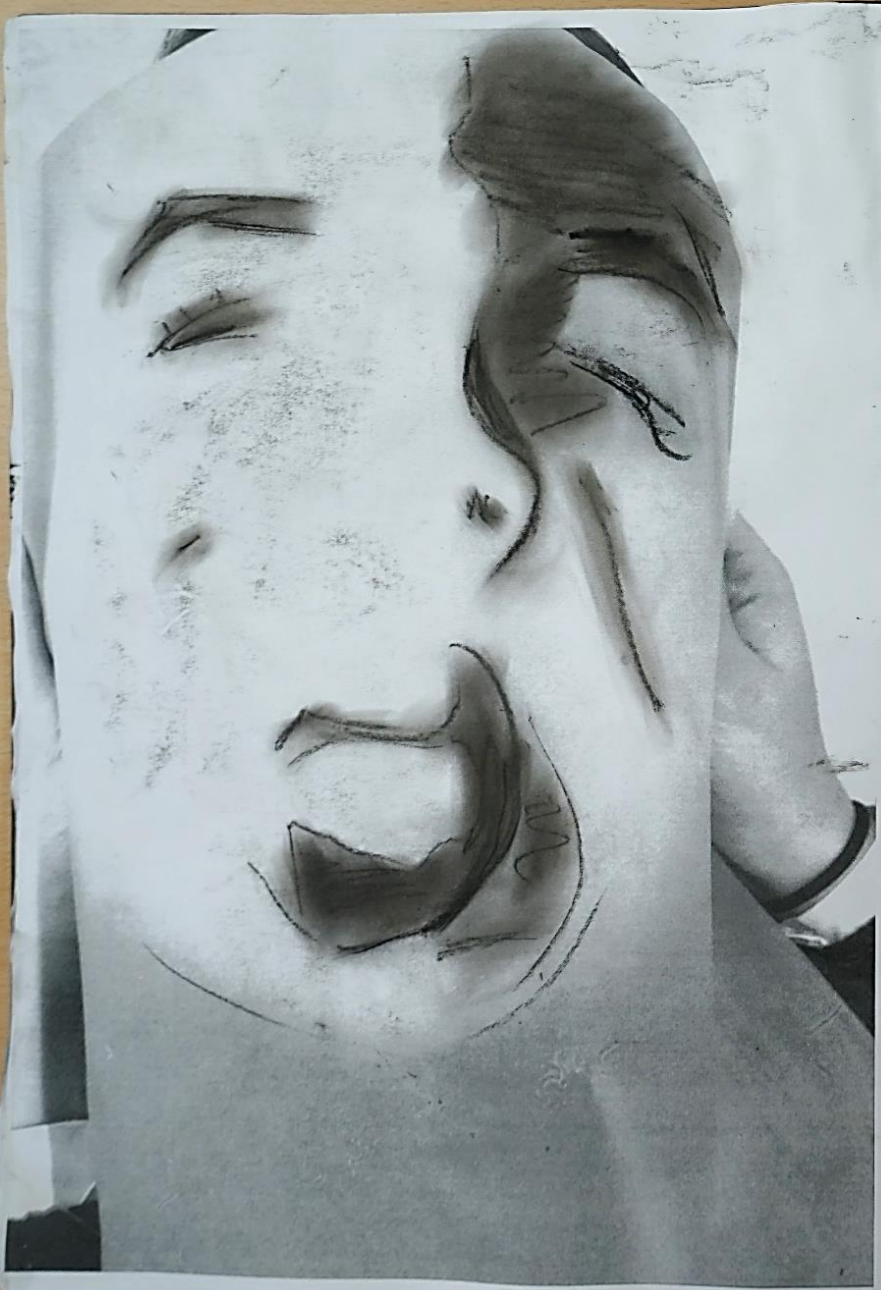


Here I use tracing tissue

I left this and tried to see how the tissue would pull off to see the effect of the colour and the pulling away together from the edge of

I think from this I would like to try more print making. I really like the marks made from where I have closed my book and the print has transferred onto the other page

I really like this one as the use of the different mediums creates different textures



I wanted to experiment further into the idea of fading.

I pressed someone's face up against the photocopyer. I think the idea of only some features of the face present is very interesting as it becomes less of something, turning into Nothing.



I have decided that although these images have prompted me onto the idea of FADING

I don't want to use these photos.



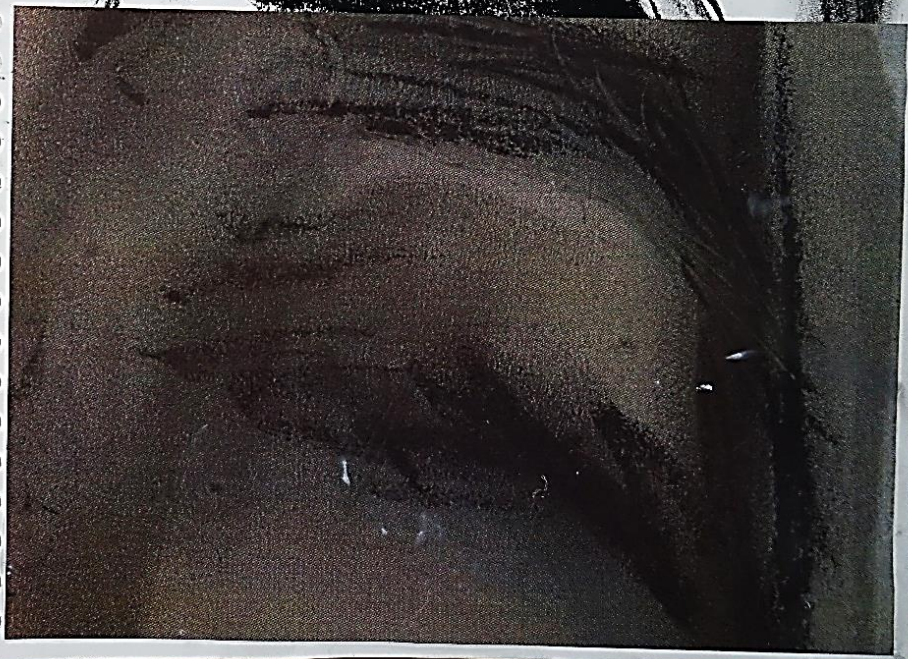




After looking into the idea of facial I then went back through my book and found the photos of someone being behind racism. I drew over the image of Churchill and zoomed in a lot to the point where the photos then become nothing they don't represent anything.

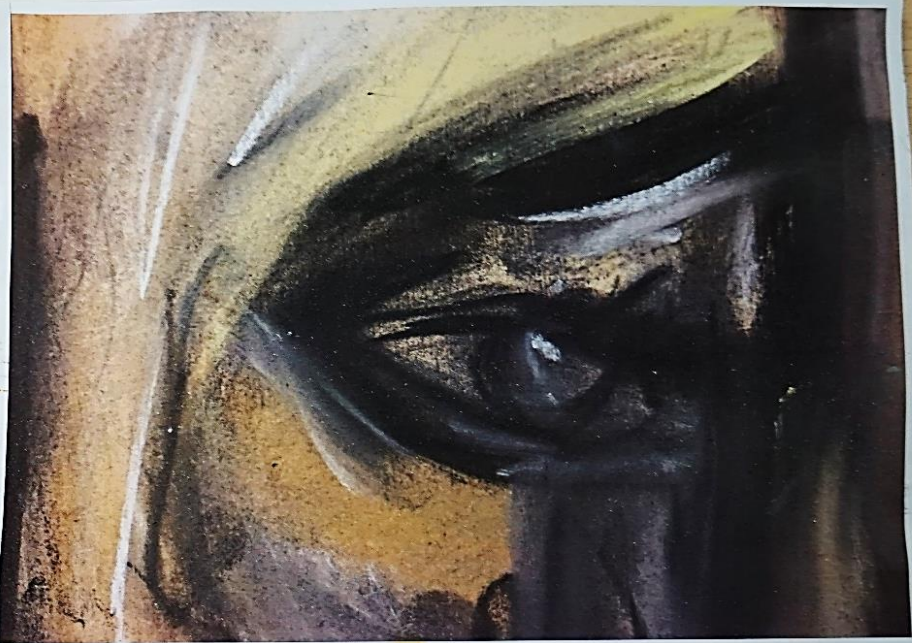


After doing a couple of the sketches I wanted to explore this further as I liked the mark making.





I wanted to go back to exploring
the rough charcoal sketches I used
to do.
I think it has been effective in
developing my work into a more abstract
pieces.



I have zoomed into an earlier piece and really focused on the mark making

I have then re-painted this with oil paints onto a large canvas

The Process



not complete



I started with oils, building on top of each other.

I then rubbed the canvas with white spirit to thin out certain parts of the image.

I decided I wanted the eye to be less representative and more abstract so I splashed the canvas with bleach and scraped along it with a piece of card, mixing colours and distorting the image.

I have noticed that since I have been exploring van Gogh within my personal study I have unconsciously increased yellow within my very dull, dark style.

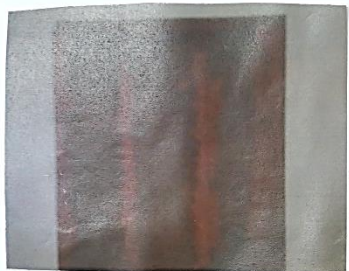
Once the oils have dried I want to go back on top with some more paint to make certain points brighter/darker.



→
I really
like this
print,
I am going
to do more
prints then
over lay
them on
my art
and photos
I have
taken

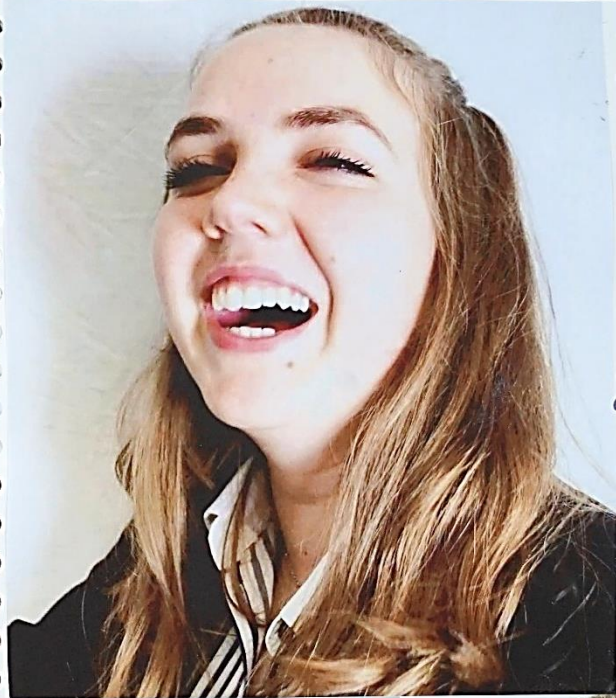
Mark Rothko

At late modern, my favorite pieces were Mark Rothkos. When entering the room,

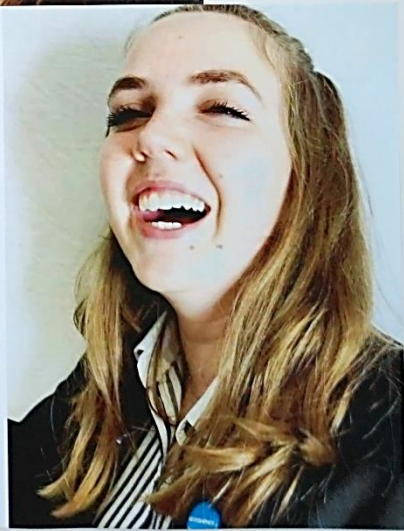


it is dimly lit and everywhere you look you are met with a huge canvas. I think this was really affective

as something I will use to inspire me when presenting



When I started this unit, mentally + physically I was not very well. Which I believe shows through the darkness of my work. However after leaving the course work for a while and coming back to it I have realised how much healthier + happier I am, and since this sketch book has acted as a diary, I wanted to express my current mind set.



Frank's bacon

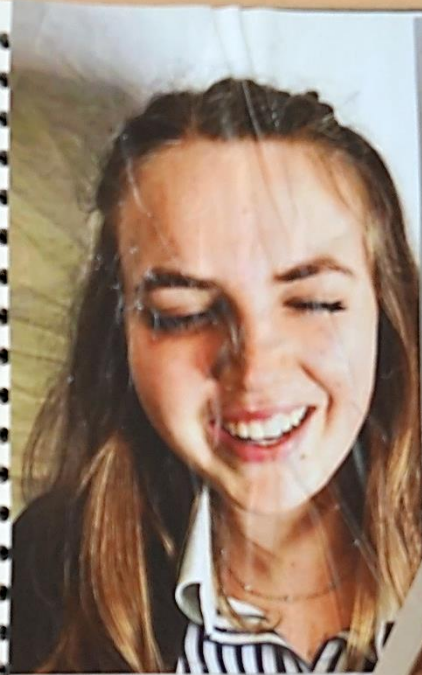


I think Frank's bacon really links to the earlier work I did on NDF boards and tracing paper. I think it illustrates an uncertainty.



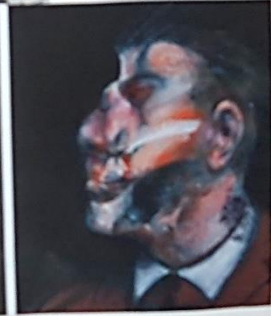
I wanted to link Bacon's work to my final development showing the transformation

↓
Dramatic stage
↓
healthier
&
happier
stage.



I experimented with folding and creasing the images to relay the effect of Bacon's work.

I also overlapped an image from the beginning of my book and now, showing the development





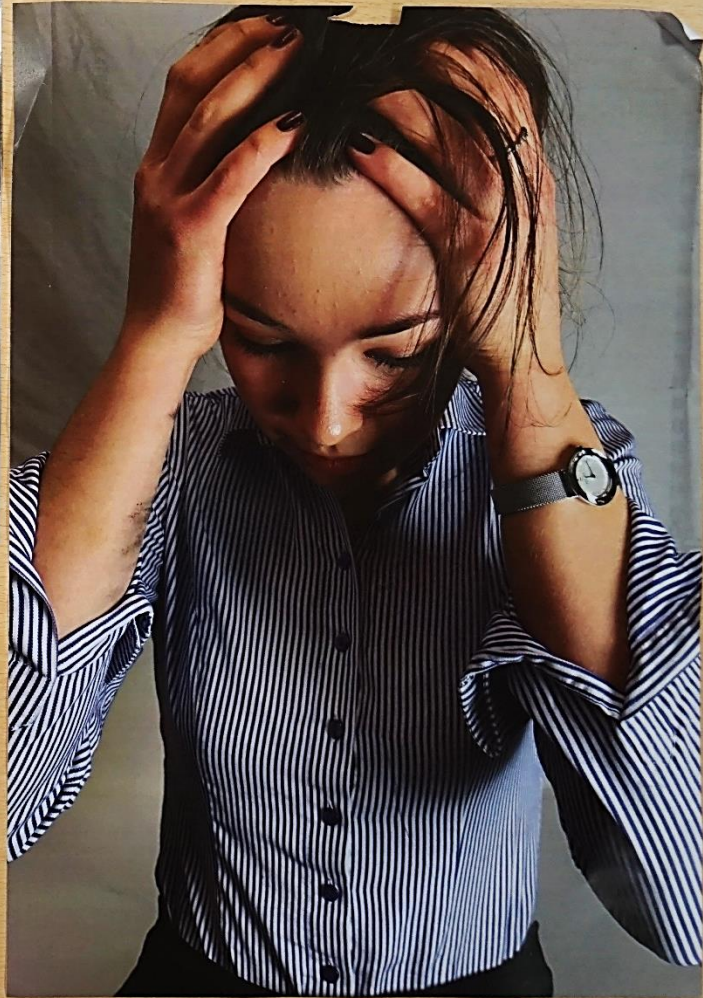
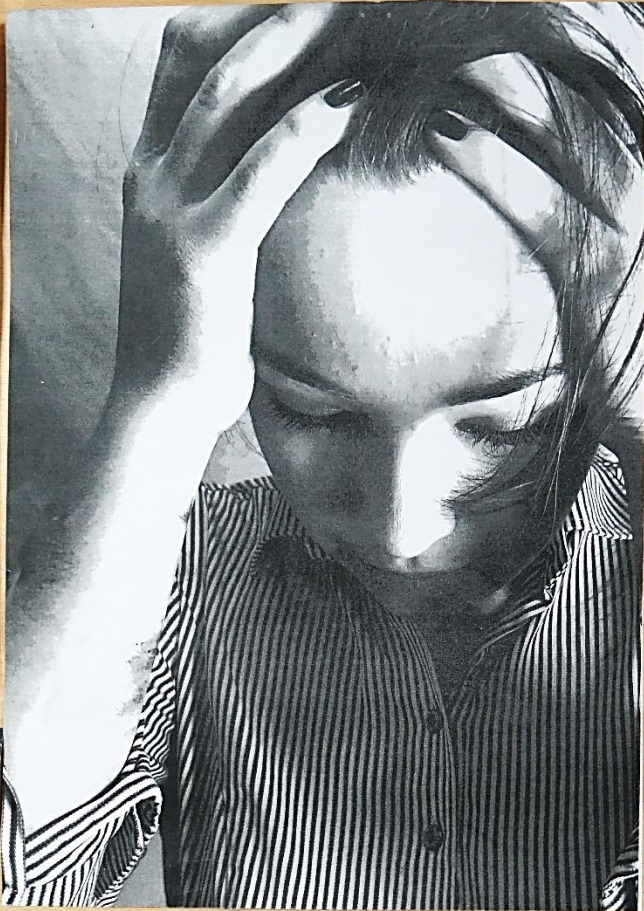
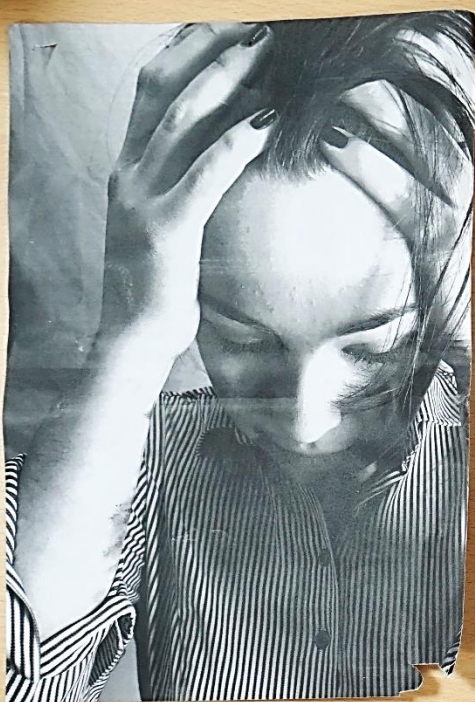
→ I really like this image I have created as I think it can be interpreted in different ways.

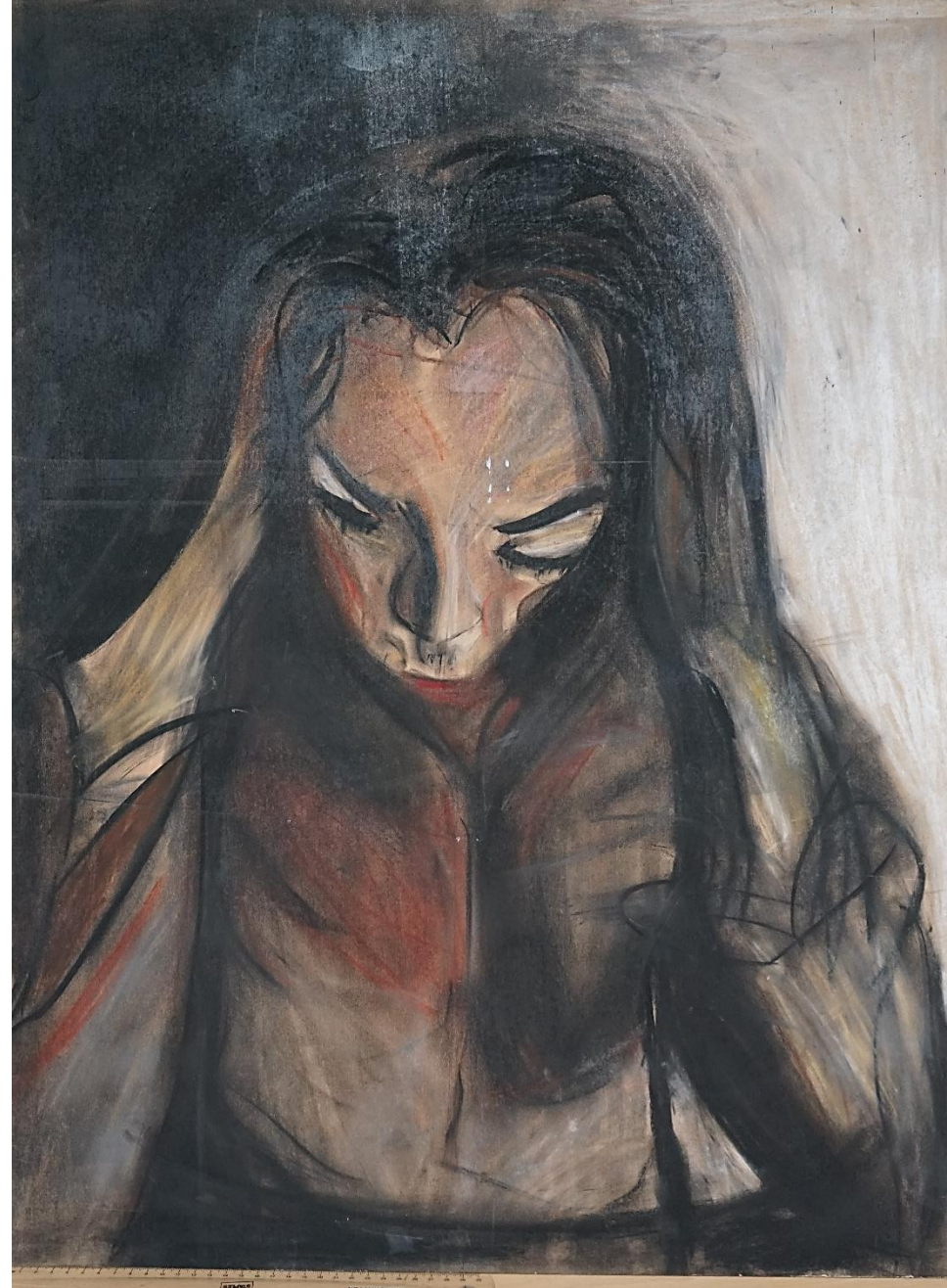
It may be seen as an uncertainty. Or a glimpse exterior to interior.

But when creating this my intentions were to express the change in mental state from a very dark depressing stage to a much happier and relieved mood.











Exploring Mental Health Issues through the Techniques used by Artists and Photographers.

In this unit I will be exploring the process and techniques artists use in order to capture the emotional state and situation of those with mental health issues. One point which I will be questioning throughout this project, is whether the image of work is a reflection of the personal feelings and emotions of the actual artist themselves. As well as analysing the mood a picture may portray, I will also be discussing the thoughts and feelings I gain while looking at various images.

Analysis of Composition: The Bedroom by Van Gogh 1888

I have always been interested in Van Gogh as I have found his artistic technique and him as an artist, fascinating. This is due to the fact that although Van Gogh is famously known to have several mental issues including severe depression, his work contains so much colour often representing hope. .



The bedroom of Arles is painted with oil on canvas. Van Gogh was very much within the movement of Post-Impressionism like fellow artists Edvard Munch and Gauguin. Van Gogh may have even been inspired by Gauguin as they did share a studio as seen in 'lust for life'. The painting was completed in 1888, closely followed by his death in 1890. Arles was obviously a significant place for VanGogh. He was self-admitted to the Saint Paul asylum in 1889.

Van Gogh seemed to take the key aims of post Impressionism further as revealed by his influence from Monet. Monet and VanGogh were both very similar in capturing



Figure 1 'impression sunrise' Monet

the outdoor landscapes both artists being influenced by Japanese art. Capturing these moments enhances the impression from the scene. As with the picture above 'impression, sunrise' the typical image illustrates the true meaning of Impressionism. We can gather that Monet has used quick brush strokes working 'wet on wet' in which layers of wet paint are applied on layers of previous wet paint. I think this portrays the quickness of capturing what is happening there and then. Within this image Monet has contrasted the colours blue and orange however they are much more pastel colours where as the strong vibrant use of yellow and blue in Van Gogh's work is much harsher. Consequently Monet's image has more of a calming affect on the viewer maybe illustrating the unstableness of VanGogh's mood. The artists strove to capture the essence of the moment. However Van Gogh delved deeper explaining the mood and emotion of the moment through his images leading into expressionism.

Van Gogh's use of yellow and green tones is very harmonious, however was contracted with the bright yellow and blue. Within this painting the use of line is very structured compared to his normal style displayed in painting such as 'A Starry Night' where the lines flow seamlessly. The structured lines in the bedroom create a sense of space and depth. For example, we can see the depth of the picture due to how the two chairs are different sizes as one is closer notably following the orthodox, westernised ruled of perception of depth. However the rest of the image does not follow these rules. The pictures of the right wall would not hang as shown. They almost look as if they are going to fall off. The floorboards look very flat and do not seem to represent the true depth. The line where the wall and floorboards meet is not straight highlighting the image is only correct in perspective in some places. On the floor there is some shadowing through the uses of jade-green that is often used in assign ceramics, in comparison to the red / pink however the are pastel colours linking back to Monet unlike the colour of the bed, window and chairs painted with vibrant colours. The lack of shadowing is a privation of depth. The irregular use of correct depth and perspective maybe illustrates the turmoil of Van Gogh's mind, which maybe helps him to create such compositions.

In my opinion this work creates a calming, spacious mental state. Which I believe VanGogh aimed to do through the use of bright colours to create a hopeful atmosphere. Although it still leads the viewer to have questions about the painting. Why VanGogh's sudden use of bright colours in comparison to his 'poverty' paintings?

However when I started to explore the issues of mental health, Van Gogh seemed like an artist that would be of suitable choice, not just because of his art, but him and the mental health issues that he is said to have had. My interest was to explore how or if there were links with his mental disorders and his paintings. Van Gogh's work can often be viewed as quite basic and simplistic in form. However, he often wrote

letters to his brother explaining his mental state of mind and what he was currently working on, which then shows how his state of mind was being represented in his art.

The issues could stem from his life in poverty and how the lack of money created difficulties when resuming to his art. However some may say his financial situation



inspired his art and made him a better artist. He created a number of painting titled as poverty. 'The potato eaters' is seen as one of Van Gogh greatest work, According to Joel Swerdlow, author of "Vincent VanGogh: lullaby in colour ," *The Potato Eaters* is "his first work of genius because of his successful colour experimentation...Blacks and browns are not what they appear." Although he was only working with 3-4 colours, it forced Van Gogh to go into much more depth while only using a monochromatic palette. The image could be showing the imagery of VanGogh only having access to a few colours, the people in the image have to feed just off potatoes. In my opinion although none of VanGoghs artworks were bought when he was alive and this could have certainly affected his welling being, I do not believe the financial situation would have affected the happiness of VanGogh. These poverty images were composed at the beginnning of his career, however even in his later works, we can see VanGogh never surrounded himself with material possessions, he was surrounded by simple things such as his pipe.

Colour seems to have been a major factor and is also something that his work has become known for, however the two painting , 'poverty' (1885) are the works that most represent Van Gogh's back round, moreover showing a lack of colour in comparison to the rest of his work. For example if we compare 'the peasant women with dark bonnet' created in 1885 to 'sunflowers ' 1888-89 we can clearly see the



Anxiety, Edvard Munch

differences and how Van Gogh himself viewed life at the time. The leap in the change of artistic style can be linked to his influences from Japanese print making and collections of the art. We can observe that this was one of the main sources of his change in outlook "we wouldn't be able to study Japanese art, without becoming much happier and more cheerful, and it makes us return to nature, despite our education and our work in a world of convention."



Artist: tsukioka-yoshitoshi. Date: 1883

Title: Famous places in the east

When comparing this image and 'The bedroom', we can clearly see that 'Famous Places In The East' use of form and tone is much more prominent as we can see through the blending of the ripples in the water and shading on the tree making the image more dimensional. However when zooming in on the woman in the picture, her face is very flat and lacks any tone. Similarly 'The Bedroom', has no depth as it lack shading, spontaneity illustrating the darkness of an areas in the room. However this may have been unimportant and if little relevance to Van Gogh as we already



know his main aim was to express the mood of the situation.

Artist: Van Gogh Date 1888-1890 Title: almond blossoms

At first I wanted to compare images like this to original Japanese art however this is just a pastiche by Van Gogh which is part of his journey to becoming a better artist. If he had carried of doing renditions then he would not have become so famous. However I can still strongly link some of Van Gogh's work like 'The Bedroom of Arles' even tho it is not obviously similar to Japanese style art apparent to his strong influences.

There are definitive similarities between 'famous places in the east' and 'almond blossom' obviously where Van Gogh would have been inspired. We can see this by



Figure 2 Hokusai, The Great Wave off Kanagawa. 1832

the cherry blossoms which I believe was a main focus of Van Gogh's when he was influenced by Japanese art. However in my opinion I believe Hokusai's 'the great wave' is very similar to VanGogh's own work.

We can see within the clouds and mountains the links between 'wheat fields in cypresses' and 'the great wave'. Both images are trying to represent the movement of the scenes, moreover, although The Great Wave is portraying the motion of the wave, it is quite a solid image, it is portrayed as a frozen scene due to it being a woodblock print meaning Hokusai was fixed to do much more solid lines. Whereas the lines in 'Wheat Fields in Cyprus' are much more continuous and turbulent maybe once again depicting a state of mind. The mood is not necessarily depressing but unstable, portraying the bipolar Van Gogh suffered with.



This quotation was taken from one of the many letters to his brother, Theo. Although the art is seen to improve his frame of mind, many would say it improved and modernised his art into a postimpressionism that was not only influenced by Japanese art but also the last impressionist exhibition, the beginning of Fauvism, developing around 1886. Fauvism is the emphasis of colour over realistic values. Edvard Munch's work leans towards fauvism but is seen as much more of an expressionist. However Van Gogh's work truly contains the Fauvism movement, his shows how colour overpowers the realistic quality.

Van Gogh's use of brightly coloured oils in many of his paintings represents a feeling of contentment. In a letter to Van Gogh's brother, Theo, he described the composition of 'The bedroom' as "is to be suggestive here of rest or of sleep in general." This indicates that when focusing on the image it should rest the brain. He believed the bright colours were of simplicity and the blues and yellow would calm a viewer and remind them of warmth. The reason I decided to look at this image was because, it stood out



that Van Gogh was depicting his optimism and peace of mind which seemed a rarity. Van Gogh was challenging several mental illnesses, including depression, anxiety and some symptoms of bipolar disorder, which are the reasons for his short lived life, dying at 37 in 1890. Gogh was also combating Temporal Lobe Epilepsy. He treated this with 'digital' that can cause a person to see in yellow or see yellow spots. This could be why Gogh loved the colour so much. It is interesting to discover that an illness possibly caused Van Gogh to channel his love of a colour into an expressive form. The Sunflowers and The bedroom are strongly made up of yellow and seem to express a sort of euphoria. When viewing 'The Sunflowers' in person I was surprised by how small the image is. Overtime the image has become a much browner shade due to the white wash Van Gogh used underneath causing the bright yellows to fade. I believe the bright yellow is the fundamental part of most of Van Gogh's image as it very much depicts his hopefulness. In my opinion due to the fading of the colour, the takes away from the instant attraction to the image.

Moreover even the images that contain a majority of blue illustrating a melancholy mood showing his depressive state, still incorporate splashes of yellow. For example 'a starry night'. It is also interesting to see that within his paintings, some items are painted with accuracy, for example with in The Bedroom, the bed and some objects are painted with accurate straight line, realistic to form, however the paintings to the right of the bed and the flooring in The Chair painting, are clearly not painted to the same accuracy and almost demonstrates a sense of carelessness, possibly showing his bipolar state of mind and how he's health was deteriorating as shortly after he was committed to a mental asylum and in 1890 committed suicide.

While investigating how artists express their mental situation through their art, I have come across many artists that interest me.

Analysis of artist: Francesca Woodman.

Francesca Woodman was an American photographer recording her self-confessed mental illness, leading to her young death. She was often photographed herself or other female models. Her work seems to be a diary of how she was feeling; as time goes on Woodman is less visible within her photos indications how she may have felt, slowly reaching death.



This unnamed photo was composed in 1977 in Rome.

All of Woodman's photos are in black and white which I believe exaggerates the darkness that she is trying to express. Within this photo, Woodman hangs from a doorframe with the light shining in from a window onto her body. Here she may

have been trying to indicate that she is close to death as a few years later she committed suicide by jumping from a window. However what I find most interesting about this photo is the composition. Why is there a chair in front of her? What is the significance? This chair has obviously been positioned with the intention of it to be in the photo. The slant of the floor also links back to *The Bedroom of Arles*, however VanGogh Gogh drew his room to look like that, Woodman floor is already like that so some similarities were not made with intention within Woodman work. Although the images are very different in the way of colour, I think Van Gogh use of colour is very simplistic very much like the black and white photos from Woodman.

Van Gogh's chair was created in 1888. "I would so much like to imbue you with a large share of my faith that we shall succeed in starting something that we will endure" the words of Vincent Van Gogh to Gauguin a few weeks prior to them living together in the yellow house of Arles. Although this is a very colourful oil painting, I believe it shows some similarities to the photo by Woodman. Both show a chair positioned at an angle, placed on the in front of a door with a fabric item on the seat and a unit to the left of the chair. Due to both artists exploring their mental illnesses though their art and how both demonstrate their journey to an early death through their art. I have found it very interesting to find a link between the compositions of these two suicidal artists.



Woodman's Father stated "Francesca's work suffers a little bit what Van Gogh's work suffered from, the picture of this crazy man, who cut of his ear isn't very helpful to understanding VanGogh's paintings. Similarly there are people whose attraction to Francesca's work is bound up with their sense of her tragic story and without the tragic story they might not be so interested in the work."

The image above of the door flying through the corridor is a different picture for Woodman as most her image contain her a another woman. The image contains strong and bold lines which is also not like Woodman's usual artistic style. Is it a representation of surreal and symbolic imagery? Many may say that this could be representing the unstableness of having a mental illness and maybe this piece of art was a risk taken by Woodman when she was in a turbulent state. However I would argue that an artist know what will work and won't after years of practicing and that is embedded in their mind, so even if Woodman was in turbulent stage while composing this image, she new that it would still work aesthetically.

Sally Mann is an American photographer who focuses on her young children. Her aim was to capture "the confusing emotions and developing identities of



adolescents". This is obviously quite broad in terms of emotion but I think it's



something we all go through and in terms of Mann's photos, it is up to your interpretation of how one is feeling. I think this is a really strong link to Woodman. Woodman often photographed herself or other young women as that was her main focus. In my opinion in today's society children become stressed at an earlier age and perhaps at not enjoying their childhood and although Mann's photos portray a depressing vibe I believe it is up to your own interpretation to gauge the mood. In my opinion I think Mann's photos are natural and her children are happy as they were photographed in the family's summer cabin where the children were probably most free and content.

Before starting this study, I had no idea I would come across Francesca Woodman and Sally Mann and that all these artists link even though from first glance you may not suspect it. I simply wanted to explore Mann's work based on visuals not thinking she would have any involvement with mental illnesses. However from delving deeper I found out that one of her children has schizophrenia. This in itself I believe reassures us that as a society none of us can go untouched by either having or someone close to us in our life having a mental illness.

Woodman's father's quote mirrors my comparison and strengthens the similarities made. However whilst it is sad the art can become interpreted only by using the artists' mental illnesses and their early deaths have perhaps made their art more famous and defined who they are as artists, I have to disagree with this opinion as I believe that a person's state of mind must impact how they paint and the meaning behind the piece of art. From my own personal experience, I know that my frame of mind affects the art that I produce. In my personal opinion, it is the meaning behind art that makes it interesting. I know that when I walk into the National Gallery and look at the detailed, fine art paintings, for example Canaletto, whilst I can appreciate the artist's talent and skills in producing this work, the pieces do not interest me as much as other art, that perhaps shows less 'accurate painting' skills, but have deeper meanings behind them.

My intentions when starting this study was to explore whether someone's mental health is depicted through their work maybe as a coping mechanism or if the work itself can influence the state of mind. In my opinion, at first glance at Woodman's work, you instantly notice the darkness and insanity in her work, it is extremely visual. Although it is Van Gogh is infamous for having multiple mental disorders I originally thought that this may not have been so vivid in his work, this is due to his work becoming a more traditional style of painting. However in the era when Van Gogh was painting his work would have instantly illustrated an irregular state of mind due to him being one of the first to paint in such a different style to his time, once again him taking post impressionism further. This may have been one of the key factors as to why he didn't sell a single painting when he was alive, 100 years ago mental health was not wisely spoken about. In conclusion I believe mental illnesses are strongly portrayed through art, not many people go untouched by mental health,

even if it has not affected an individual directly. Art can be used as a coping mechanism, I know in my case, my art changed depending on my mood and I think you can strongly interoperate my journey mentally, through my sketch book.

Websites:

https://www.artble.com/artists/vincent_van_gogh/more_information/critical_reception

<https://artscolumbia.org/art-history/modern/impressionism/comparison-claude-monet-and-van-gogh-5818/>

<http://vangoghletters.org/vg/>

<http://vangoghletters.org/vg/letters.html>

<http://www.vggallery.com/letters/main.htm>

<https://www.vincentvangogh.org/>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/francesca-woodman-10512>

<https://www.victoria-miro.com/artists/7-francesca-woodman/>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/life-motion-egon-schiele-francesca-woodman/exhibition-guide-life>

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-woodman-francesca-artworks.htm>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/art-features/8130041/Francesca-Woodman-eerie-visions-from-a-life-cut-short.html>

Books:

Vincent Van Gogh by Jorn Hetebrugge

The life and works of Vincent Van Gogh by Michael Howard