

Stage 2 Visual Arts – Art
Nadia De Falco
Practitioner’s Statement
Violence against Women

My resolved practical is an emotively driven portrait titled, *Violence against Women*. The artwork measures 900mm x 1200mm and was crafted using oil paint on canvas. Being that domestic violence is an extremely crucial and sensitive topic to many, (especially for those women who fallen victim to abuse), I felt the need to emphasise this severity of the matter and portray this in a female centred portrait.

The works of Davide Cambria and Brad Robson, although initially influenced greatly by Van Gogh, were the key inspirations to my semi abstract/impressionistic style. However, my ideas and concepts came about through personal past experiences. I wanted to link these artistic styles to the experiences I have personally witnessed in a highly poignant and powerful way. The boldness of colour, line and movement employed by these artists matches the brutality and severity of the themes centred on domestic violence.

The experimentations conducted throughout my folio primarily consisted of using oil paint, as I found that the qualities in the paint help create a depth and realism within the portrait. I looked at many aspects to define the choices I made for the portrait such as: facial features, expressions, piercings, shadow etc. The richness of the oil paint allowed me to bring these features to life and create a boldness I would have not otherwise found in acrylic paint.

My artwork communicates the ideas of women and abuse through many obvious aspects within the art piece. For example, the black-eye blatantly indicates the physical abuse of the women from their intimate partner. For the background, I purposely chose the colour pink as the leading colour tone, as I wanted to represent the ideas of femininity and innocence of strong independent women. Darker tones are weaved among the pink, suggesting that women deserve the right to speak up against their injustices. A long black slit cuts through the woman’s lips, stretching across each side of the canvas. The slit is a symbolic representation of the voiceless stories experienced by many women – the women who are too scared to fight back, to stand up, and to walk away. While I wanted her to look aesthetically beautiful, the slit is a reminder that abuse leaves scarring, both in the physical and emotional sense.

To truly connect my themes, concepts and ideas of domestic violence and its harsh reality, the technique of rough strokes of the flat-brush and palette knife was used to better define this. The different directions of the brush strokes creates almost a blurred/pixelated affect conveying how individuals like those victims of violence want to escape or hide away – the notion of existence becoming too much to bare. It even signifies that women do not realise are or could be a victim of dominating violence and it is seen as all just a blur to them.

Throughout this journey, not only have I pushed my artist boundaries, but I have managed to find my own voice. As women, we need to support each other, give each other strength when there is none, and love where there may only be hate and despair. It is our role to do something and I only hope that my artwork will be a stepping stone in the change I wish to see in our society.

Word Count: 521