

Equilibrium

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The idea for the major painting came from a TikTok video that appeared on my screen one day of these individuals having a physical fight, which got me thinking about depicting my inner family. I thought acrylic painting would work well because it allows me to easily layer and create depth and dimension. I also have always wanted to paint a self-portrait of a larger scale size and thought I would challenge myself for my final major.

I introduced subtle Surrealism into this portrait by replicating numerous versions of myself in the one portrait. I added to this sense by blurring the faces of each figure, apart from the central one. This reflected and emphasises their role in shaping me without overshadowing the focal figure. I left the inner child unblurred, as it represents a vulnerable part of myself that still appears from time to time. The painting features 8 characters, each reflecting different aspects of my personality: current day me, my inner child, inner conflict, inner peace, manager, exile, firefighter, and creative. They interact within the artwork, while the main me engages with the audience, offering a glimpse into my mind and allowing viewers to connect with the depicted characters.

I decided that composition wise I would form something similar to a Renaissance painting, creating a central figure, focusing on depicting light and a sense of realism. I started with collecting a range of photographs of myself and used editing software Photoshop to begin designing compositions. I edited the lighting for instance, darkened the small child and enhanced some shadows so that these would be more prominent in the painting. I highlighted the inner child and main me by using a slightly lighter background creating almost an aura around them.

Time management posed a significant challenge in this project due to its scale and the details needed to depict a true sense of realism. To address this, I opted for a blur effect rather than detailed faces, deepening the artwork's meaning and saving time for intricate elements. Illustrating the inner child was particularly difficult, as I lacked experience with illustrating children. I took a lot of inspiration from Renaissance art where there are interconnected storylines, particularly in Botticelli's work. I also incorporated Rembrandt's use of light and shadows, creating a realistic figurative piece with a glowing aura.

Creating art is a way of self-expression, you can communicate meaning, stories and emotions in a unique colourful way without having to use words. In a way you are able to take your imagination and show it to the world, as if they are looking right into your mind. I think that what is most beautiful about art, that we can create physical representations of ourselves and share them with the world around us. My artwork was important to create because it expresses parts of myself that are hard to describe, parts of myself others don't see, and through expressing that others may relate to those characters. Its therapeutic in a way being able to put those versions of myself onto a canvas and have them look back at me.