

Book of Life

Madison Reid

'Book of Life' is a piece created using acrylic paint, Posca pens and recycled books. This piece is an expressionist piece that explores my journey of schooling through the perspective of my loved ones. I have used two recycled books as the canvas to help portray the symbolic concept of the piece.

Within my folio, I explored different styles using a variety of different mediums and techniques to convey different stories and moments in my life. When exploring various styles, I began to develop my own aesthetic continuously diverting back to a chaotic, expressionist style that allowed me to explore composition and layers. Within this style I was able to experiment with different colours, patterns, and line work to represent emotions and feelings.

Throughout my schooling journey, I went through many different emotions at different stages. In turn the emotions I felt also had an impact on the people around me especially my family. Within this final piece I wanted to explore and present the feelings I felt at these different stages but also the feelings experienced by my family.

To depict the different emotions throughout these stages, I was inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat's bold colour schemes and repetitive line work. I was also inspired by Murray Degelman's style and his use of figures/creatures within his work. The figures in my pieces have over exaggerated facial features and repetitive organic line work to emphasise a chaotic mood. Tim Burton's characters with somewhat creepy elements and large eyes also inspired my figures.

The colours within each piece were specifically chosen and placed in layers to not only create texture but represent each individual emotion and the layers within the experience of each moment and life stage. A mix of organic and geometric shapes were used to portray different facial expressions and to convey a mood.

The different stages of my schooling journey are presented from my early days in reception to my middle school years, early teenage years and my final year of Year 12. I tried to portray feelings of anxiety, stress, sadness and happiness. I also felt the need to portray the desire to fit in and the need to be 'cool' or 'trendy'. I wanted to portray the intense feeling of these emotions and have portrayed this through colour and chaotic movement created through the line work.

Whilst working on this piece I learnt how to use different mediums and surfaces to create art pieces. I also learnt how to develop my own aesthetic using inspiration of other artists. I learnt skills in using line and shape to create a sense of chaos and movement and limiting negative space.

Overall, I have created a refined piece using bold colour schemes, repetitive line work and layered texture to create a personally relevant expressionist piece.