

## Practitioner's Statement

**Title:** *'Entwined'*

**Dimensions:** 2x 40cm x 40cm

Lino block prints, mixed media on Stone Henge paper

*'Entwined'* – represents what I had become. I'd allowed the influence of others to take over my thought processes rather than being authentic in your thoughts, words and actions. A messy relationship breakup, deep family issues, the stress of year 12, the inability to express myself and my constant need to please others compounded the situation. I wasn't living my own life which opened a space in me where negativity and darkness crept in, along with three weeks of the most excruciating pain my body had ever known. This is where *'Entwined'* was born.

The concept of darkness forming in ones' soul evoked several concepts to inspire my artwork. I believe repressed emotions manifest in the body as pain and sickness. Frida Kahlo was a key influence as her artworks like *Broken Column*-1944, evoked how she felt emotionally and physically.

Exploring a suitable medium which connected with my theme, I considered my strengths in lino block printing. I found relaxation through the carving process. Cheralyn Darcey, a printmaking artist, specialises in depicting flowers and animals through oracle card decks. Her work motivated me to incorporate lino block stamps with other materials.

To connect to my illness, the main subject matter was the rib cage (first print). The nails in the 5<sup>th</sup> rib on the right side represents the constant need to please at the expense of my own happiness as well as representing pain from constant coughing.

The focal point of both works was the Waratah and Briar rose positioned at the heart centre. The Waratah (dark night of the soul) represented courage, depression and going through hell and surviving. The Briar rose; appreciation and gratefulness.

The left image represents the feeling of *congestion*, and then *relief*, on the right. The entwined wormwood represents authenticity as it climbs throughout the rib cage. The cluster of wormwood was equivalent to the vile mucus of repressed emotions. It appears to be taking over my breathing space which is exactly how it felt. The rose is associated with gratitude but the dark burgundy/black climbing rose in the first artwork represents courage, survival and depression.

The hovering Death Moths symbolise the old way of life coming to an end with a new life around the corner. The Butterfly and Dragonflies; freedom of new beginnings, transformation, emerging from the darkness and the perspective of self-realization. Black Widow; patience, vulnerability, contrary to the 'Daddy-longlegs'; balance and increased awareness of surroundings, and finally, Rose Quartz; healing one's heart from pain.

Throughout this practical I came across many challenges, the most prevalent being composition. Deciding which lino blocks to use and positioning them was difficult. I was constantly juggling with proximity to form leading lines to read each work. Eventually I found a representation of how I felt and it flowed. Another challenge was evoking the right atmosphere in each frame. The mixed media assemblage in the deep box frames amplifies the depth. The colours used in each work were similar to maintain unity between the two. The intensity of colour evoked different emotions as my 'being' recovered from darkness and despair to light and wellness.

