

## *As the Flowers Disappear*

### **Jess Madigan**

The intention of my piece was to aesthetically and symbolically encapsulate inner loneliness in its truest form. A real and shockingly rigid emotion to endure, I wanted to capture the feeling of one's lowest moment and make it feel warm and comforting. To perhaps find beauty and calmness in a moment that feels quite the opposite. The first panel depicts a chaotic style, which foreshadows the works that follow. Using warm tones, I painted flowers, which symbolise that while one's life may look warm and bright, like the flowers, one's inner emotions may be the opposite, which is seen in a glimpse within the charcoal cut out. The single falling tear is repeated in the following panels to provide consistency, holding strong meaning.

The second panel illustrates a deeper look into the eyes of the woman from the first panel, as she sheds a warmly toned tear that flows down the work. Finally, the last panel minimally symbolises the empty feeling of isolation and loneliness, with the tear falling and creating a puddle in the empty charcoal room. While I wish for this piece to be interpreted differently among people, everyone has a personal connection to mental health disruptions; this piece acts as a relatable portrayal of such feelings.

An inspiration behind my work was the cinematography alongside the song "when the party's over" by Billie Eilish. This minimalistic, yet compelling portrayal of inner loneliness led me in my creation of a three-piece series, with a red marbled drip translating across each piece.

Yvette Coppersmith is an artist who stimulated and helped the idea generation and creation of my work. Her simple, yet captivating works explore bright themes that allow audiences to interpret her works in many different ways.

Minimal line work is an element that I consistently used across each panel. While the theme of the work isn't subtle, my choice of diminishing negative space was to generate a glimpse of calm and steadiness. I aimed at completing an artwork with elements of expression, contrast, abstraction and balance. While it was not possible for these to fit into one painting, they each feature in one of my panels. When creating each panel, I wanted the aesthetic to remain the same, yet each section being able to work its own, with a story attached to each panel. A huge element of my work is charcoal, something I am new to working with. Through many trial drawings and mistakes, I learnt how to create a resolved charcoal drawing and use hints of colour to illuminate the dark charcoal. A challenge I overcame was dealing with minimalism. Using colour and contrast I needed to ensure that balance and continuity were addressed.

My final practical is as I imagined, I feel satisfied in the way it tells a story with simplicity in some respects, yet chaos in others. As I previously stated, I have a personal connection to the piece, but I believe others can find their own meaning through observation.