

Veiled by Distraction

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The idea behind my final artwork emerged from a thought involving the persistent distractions I felt throughout Year 12, ones that were both internal and external. I felt I had no control of these seeping in and felt at times that it began to take me off course and make me feel disorientated. These distractions were prominent from day to day, and I chose Photography, so that I was able to reflect those somewhat internal and abstract feelings in a visual sense. I created a series based on those distractions that were most prominent, such as social media influence, relationships and friendships, issues of religious conflict as well as a constant struggle of some of us trying to keep up the front that we are ok. This personal journey and connection fueled my desire to explore and express these themes through my artwork, allowing me to connect with both personal and global narratives. I know that to emphasize the personal relevance, I wanted to create a self-reflective and self-aware work and so chose self-portraits. I knew I wanted to experiment and explore lighting concepts, toning, and layering of images to express moments of feeling alone.

The imagery behind my final artwork reflects this intent in various ways, I explored the theme of internal and external distraction from distinct angles. In the first photograph, it delves into the personal impact of external conflicts, connecting my empathy for global issues with my own experience of being targeted, empathizing our shared mortality. The Phone screen absorption and laptop Screen dispersion illustrates the challenge of staying focused in a world filled with internal distractions, reflecting the lure of technology. Through the masked image, the use of the theatre mask symbolizes how people often conceal their inner struggles behind a public disguise, revealing the complexity of personal and social life influenced by distraction. Each artwork provides a unique perspective on the theme, collectively offering a comprehensive exploration of distractions' effects on personal and social growth.

When an audience is viewing my work, the aim is that there is some aspect that they themselves can relate to, that they too see themselves somewhere within the work. This artwork reflects my style of working in terms of that blend of realistic imagery, which is then edited in a surrealistic way. Like artist Santora's work, I wanted to create a series of work that could be read as a stand-alone piece, as well as understanding the links between each image. Her works have clean lines and simplistic imagery that is merged in such a way it creates a more complex image, another reason why I chose to print the images in the size I did. I want the photographs to be confronting and have the viewer work their way through each image.

The planning stages of synthesizing which final images would be included was the most difficult, ensuring there was a flow and balance with the compositions as a whole piece of work. My own arts practice has developed throughout this practical in terms of expanding my editing skills to ensure my images visually appeared how I wanted them to, and to get my idea from thought to paper so to speak. I have always preferred art that displays more of a dreamlike, current state of mind. Art is important for these reasons I feel, to see one's inner thoughts, with no words.