

Stage 2 Visual Art

Practical Two: Practitioners Statement

'Oil Slick'

Oil Slick allows an insight into the topic of environmental destruction and the ripple effect this causes upon wildlife, as well as representing the passion I obtain upon sharing this. When researching and delving into the theme of oil spills within the ocean, and learning of the unfavourable damage this causes to oceanic wildlife, I decided to specifically respond to this. By creating a confronting structure, I decided the piece will enable an intrigue of others into the relevant social injustice topic and potentially spark interest through manipulating sombre and empathetic tones when questioning the piece and its meaning.

The creativity and free flowing movement within resin art intrigued me and I experimented with this medium as I admired the ability of a piece to involve minimal structure. Jordan Eagles intrigued me as, whilst still obtaining an appeal, his works portray an insight into the reality of gruesome and confronting factors blood obtains through the dark and compacted palette. The use of organic material set within resin products stimulated an idea of researching ways in which I may use particular features regarding oil spills to imitate my own resin set product.

Furthermore, Kader Attia's production of a geometric block of sugar with thick opaque oil poured upon the surface, clearly represents a strong and passionate message regarding the effects of oil. Physically conveying to viewers the properties oil obtains and thus highlighting a sense of realism and a connection to the oceanic effects is what I wished to achieve within *Oil Slick*. Like Attia, *Oil Slick* promotes the negative connotations associated with oil spillage and allows an insight into the reflection of how it specifically affects something, eg birdlife. Additionally, Tom Price uses the appearance of a clear high gloss solid resin block which adds to the reflecting effect I perceived through *Oil Slick* as viewers themselves are reflected, ensuing a perception that this topic can involve all.

Oil Slick involved an excessive volume of resin to be poured, which created considerable time constraints and pushed the limits regarding the periods in which each layer may set. Overall *Oil Slick* was designed to produce a clear coating surrounding Oil dipped wings, however as the resin set small bubbles appeared which added to an oceanic notion reflected through the newspaper background. An excessive amount of PVA glue upon the surface of the newspaper background created a green tint, which, whilst deflecting the original purpose of a monochromatic background, further alluded to the ocean.

The composition of *Oil Slick* involved multiple preparations and experiments in order to produce an aesthetic appearance whilst also reflecting the topic of choice. Through the newspaper background the issue is directly addressed and highlighted to intrigued viewers, whilst also creating a contrast to the pure white base of the wings. The wings also metaphorically represent a bird taking flight through their specific positioning, yet are held back by both the resin and oil. Additionally, the protruding stark white of the wings allows a connection to viewers as they can interact with the piece.

Word Count: 506