

# DAISY

This practical was inspired by many artists that I studied throughout both my folio and my visual study. I first discovered the works of Craig Glasson, Chris Dorosz and many other artists that base their work around slavery and was inspired by their use of mediums, particularly that of Glasson and Dorosz. Both artists use Perspex or acetate sheets to create layers and depth in their work. Glasson paints everyday figures in acrylic then blurs their image using various techniques, while Dorosz typically uses individual layered dots to create a more abstract figure. Both artists utilise their own abstract techniques to evoke deeper meaning to their work. Glasson tends to include the entire colour wheel using various tones in his detail, while Dorosz sticks to using only primary colours and limited tones, which allows the viewer's eyes to "make up" for the colours. However this means Dorosz includes significantly less detail in his figures.

My subject focus was initially on three different world issues, however I selected slavery, as I found there was so little attention brought to this issue in the media. Various symbolic elements have been used throughout this piece to call attention to the horrors of human trafficking and slavery in the modern world. I choose a young girl as my subject matter as the most vulnerable to human trafficking are young children, particularly girls. The two other pieces added, surround the portrait and depict various hands, in different positions. I chose to paint this specific subject matter because hands are associated with actions and hence I felt that the position and shape of each hand represents certain feelings and meanings. Humans often use their hands when displaying emotion, for instance if one is angry they will often tense or clench their fist, whereas when one is happy or hopeful, their palms are often relaxed. Painting the hands allowed subtle meaning behind the portrait, that many of these victims of human trafficking are entrapped. The red string, represents the entrapment that surrounds these victims, and almost highlights the fact that there are often "strings attached" to these victims.

I discovered working with acrylic after finding the works of Craig Glasson, however the layered element of my piece came after experimentation with various slides. The layers were used to create added depth to my piece, which has an underlying theme hinting towards layers of the issue. I found working with acrylic especially on this medium particularly difficult as the colours in the skin tones had to be blended properly to portray the facial features along with shadows and creases within the subject that work to create emotion within the face. My aim was to portray both pain and peace, within her face. So while leaving her mouth in a half smile, I painted the eyes to reflect a sense of pain. The layered effect also helped me to achieve this, particularly the depth within her eyes, which conveys feelings of uneasiness to portray the suffering of those enslaved.

Word count 500.

# KALOPSIA

MEANING: THE DELUSION OF THINGS BEING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THEY REALLY ARE.

This piece was inspired particularly by the watercolour works of Silvia Pelissero. I have studied various watercolour styles and techniques and wanted to convey beauty through soft delicate colours and detailed features. Pelissero is famous for her flowing abstract portraits. Typically Pelissero's work depicts portraits of women or girls, using muted tones and faded colours to capture the subjects' highlights, often using negative space to her advantage. Pelissero crafts beautiful images of faint splashed, soft faded curves that work together to form a face. Often blending and allowing colours to bleed through and flow into one and other, yet creating detail through the use of negative space. It was the delicate softness that drew me to her works originally and in this piece I aimed to capture and convey that same graceful, intricate style to form a beautiful serene image altogether.

To follow the same style as Silvia Pelissero and her concepts, I chose to paint a portrait so that emotion could also be shown through this piece through expression. My hope is that the figure in my painting appears hopeful and serene, yet distressed, like she is trying to hold herself together emotionally. To do this I studied various facial expressions and creases that are often interpreted as emotion. So I used shading and light tones to create slight creases on the forehead just above her nose, do show slight distress, while her eyes are shut leaving that part of her face in a more peaceful state. The red string was originally going to be painted all in red acrylic however after consideration I decided that using literal red yarn would better reinforce the concept of wrapped string as I can also allow the string to trail off my piece and spill across the floor. This added concept is meant to represent the fact that the issue, human trafficking, is spilling out everywhere and is infiltrating and effecting our society, significantly.

Throughout this piece I have formed the face, painting with only dull washed out colours, establishing the faint facial features. I stuck to pastel colours, often using feminine, often considered pretty colours, to bring about this concept of beauty within the subjects face. This beauty is juxtaposed with the intense dark red string that cuts across the soft colours in her face. This contrast between the two mediums presents this idea that the string is holding the beauty captive hence the title of this piece – a delusion. Despite the visible beauty in the portrait it is not as it seems, much like the topic of sexual slavery and human trafficking. From the outside many victims appear normal, beautiful even, but their situation is not the case. Basically the message behind my piece screams that victims are in the ordinary, they are everyday people, who are trapped and cast underneath the subtle scarlet string.

Word count: 487