

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Individualitree***

Amaya Milnes

'Individualitree' is a black and white wallpaper installation of a man and woman embedded into tree designs. Drawn with pen on cartridge paper, this repetitive wallpaper is created from twenty reproduced A3 images then decorated individually.

Initially searching for a way to portray my ideas to do with the way generations pass on their wealth of wisdom as a lino print, the inspiration of print artist Stephen Alcorn and Finnish photographers Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth was the spark for my ideas. I felt inspired by Alcorn's use of snakes and flowers as the hair in his Bob Marley portrait as well as by the photography by Ikonen and Hjorth portraying Finnish seniors wearing wigs and hats of objects from nature and consequently began exploring more creative ways to portray my conceptual ideas in similar ways. However, as I drew these designs I found I needed more guidance to be able to more comprehensively and technically complete my work. The discovery of David Noonan's "Owl Wallpaper" which explores the theme of multiplicity, provided the platform that I needed to further develop my artwork.

During the design process of my new wallpaper idea I encountered some challenges. While the individual branch shapes of my design were not difficult to draw, I struggled to develop the two heads to have a balanced composition, having to add, extend and thicken branches until an even and proportionate layout was achieved. Additionally, it was sometimes difficult to draw the branches so that each page would align correctly with the other without crowding the page in some places or leaving it bare in others.

While the use of a photocopier began as a practical means to reproduce my design, I was surprised to discover that there was a relationship between this process and the now evolving meaning of my artwork. In creating an artwork that seeks to express the individuality of mankind who can often be viewed as a collective and just another number in the population but who when viewed individually have their own unique gifts, personality and character, I found I was treating my artwork in the same way. I had designed two original images that I then reproduced in mass using the photocopier, but then had to spend time developing them and adding individual detail to each to make them unique.

The completed artwork is a black and white wallpaper of twenty heads that produce a fluid connection of spreading branches that sprout an abundance of delicate and diverse natural life. The title 'Individualitree' is a play on words that refer to my conceptual meaning and to the images incorporated into my artwork. I chose to use a tree as the basis of my design and in reference to the Bible verse in Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply" which is what I believe, what God said to the first humans. My artwork seeks to communicate and be a celebration of mankind's fruitfulness and individuality as designed by God.