

Practitioner's Statement

bRIGHT Side

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The stereotypical learning styles that are a result of the Left vs Right side of the brain theory, were central to the inspiration of my final piece. When choosing subjects for my final year, I stumbled across a conversation that implied that Art wasn't a real subject worthy of Year 12. Through researching the science of our brains it was evident that the structure and functions of the mind suggests that the two different sides of the brain control two different "modes" of thinking. It also suggests that each of us prefers one mode to the other.

With the different learning styles an underlying theme throughout my final piece, I also wanted to implement colour. Through exploring inspiring artists such as Francoise Nielly, Alessandro Pautasso, Tara Baden, Bruce Riley and Mitch Gobel, I was fascinated by their use of colour to highlight both emotion and modes of thinking,

The artist who had the most significant impact on my work was Francoise Nielly. I found the contemporary colour, style and portrait format of Nielly's artwork aesthetically appealing and something I aspire to replicate throughout my own artwork. Through the creativeness of Nielly's artwork I came to the conclusion that I wanted to adopt the colour and emotion of his subjects in a sense that both sides of the brain represent different personalities. Therefore, the right portrait is representative of someone pondering thoughts and the left portrait depicts a personality that is certain and precise.

Scientists are constantly exploring human brain functionality and trying to figure out how different reactions are controlled by different parts of the brain. Therefore the high flow paint reactions have been not only unpredictable but also meaningful. The small fibers that resemble tree branches, have developed into dendrites, which are neuron like cells that are consistently gathering and passing information, all within a time of less than a second. This scientific visualization was a pertinent element to the background composition of the circles. Drawing inspiration from my schooling, subject choices and curiosities surrounding art vs science, allowed me to convey personal and meaningful art.

My artwork is presented on plywood cut into eight circular shapes, which represent the different components of the brain. I incorporated symbols and key words into my artwork to reiterate the functions and tendencies of both sides of the brain.

The mediums used to create my artwork were high flow paint and acrylic gesso on plywood. I had not worked with high flow paint before, however it has always been an interest of mine, and more recently a trend among the home décor stylists. After many trials on different surfaces, I was able to develop skills in what is an unstructured method in order to execute the technique successfully.

Overall my artwork is representative of the concept that some schools tend to favor left-brain modes of thinking, while downplaying the right-brain ones. Left-brain scholastic subjects historically get better grades as its focus is on logical thinking, analysis, and accuracy. The right-brained subjects, on the other hand, focus on aesthetics, feeling, and creativity which are hard to grade.