

# Fallen Soldier

For this piece I was inspired by videos of American Soldiers returning from war and surprising their family members; from this point I thought what about the soldiers who don't return home to their families?

In this piece I have tried to show the different emotion behind the people and situations that they are in.

I have used the monochromatic colours of the print to bring emphasis to each of the subjects. The white halo effect around the family members and the full white of the spirit helps to bring emphasis to the importance of these characters. The van Gogh style lines that I have used in the background of each piece helps to show the movement in each set of circumstances. The movement in the first piece shows a selection of different emotions all circulating at the same time and in the second piece the vertical lines suggest the stillness and lack of emotions in that particular situation whilst the oblique lines show the connection between the two figures. The unity and balance within and between the two pieces really helps them to appear as one piece as well as being readable as two separate pieces.

From the very beginning I wanted my idea to be simple crisp and straight to the point, without looking over worked and I believe that using lino printing has allowed me to achieve this goal.

I believe that the design and media choice helps my idea to be clearly understandable, although perhaps the in-depth details are not obvious as it may not be clear that the adult figure is a soldier.

At the beginning of my folio I had an idea of what I wanted to do although I did not have a clear vision of the final idea or a media. As I started studying Margaret Preston I decided that the lino print style would be a nice way to create and develop my idea. Whilst working in the style of Charles Blackman I discovered many new ideas and directions in which I could take my idea. It wasn't until I started my investigation into Vincent Van Gogh that I could truly start bringing my idea together, I discovered that Vincent van Gogh's style of using movement and directional lines in his paintings would be easily and effectively transferred into lino carving and printing. It was at this point that I could start making some decisions based on the influences of each of the artists that I studied.

In art works I like to see true honest emotion and meaningful expression or emotions. As an artist I want my artwork to show how I am feeling and what emotion each idea holds for me. In each of my pieces I aim to show growth and personal development within my life. I work in an expressive style, whether that is expressionism, realism or abstraction I strive to achieve an emotional connection through which ever style I choose to work in.