

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Disregard***

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The modern artist Nick Gentry once said “these objects are no longer in the spotlight but by placing them there for a second it becomes easier to comprehend the speed and extent of the changes that are taking place today.” It was the meaning behind these profound words that inspired my first major. This work portrays how today's society is becoming a throwaway civilization, disregarding anything that is broken from relationships to objects, and not working on highlighting the qualities that remain and fixing the problem. From the start of the folio process I was fascinated technically with turning unusual and unconventional objects to create art, and the way that artists have used these objects to portray their emotive responses and their views on the world. In my opinion we often overlook the precious and special qualities of what we have in our lives and from this I want to highlight the beauty of the discarded objects and relationships. In the process of researching the ‘found object’ art movement I was drawn to the works of many unconventional artists particularly Nick Gentry and Red Hong Yi, who innovatively uses unusual objects to create art.

Growing up in a time when relationships are ending faster than ever, with up to 50 percent of married couples ending in divorce and with us discarding items and replacing them with no consideration of their worth or our immense waste. I feel personally connected to this issue of disposing objects and relationships. I have first-hand experience as to how easy it is to throw stuff away without trying to fix the problem. When things get too hard it is an easy option is to walk away and not fixing it but replace it, this is what I wanted to portray in my major.

After being influenced by Nick Gentry's use of film negatives and x-rays on a light box I decided to use the same media style to create a portrait of a couple embracing. The use of negatives symbolizes the disregard for objects as film has become less popular and nearly obsolete since the digital camera, the use of x-rays portrays the broken relationships that people have not bothered to work on, the portrait of the embracing couple portrays new relationships, and the memories of relationships that have ended.

I began taking photos of a couple embracing to show the closeness and then positioned the x-rays and negatives onto the printed out photo. I wanted this work to highlight the need for our society to start fixing problems rather than throwing them away so a couple embracing symbolizes the effect. A challenge I faced in this process was positioning the couple so that it is evident the portrait is a relationship, another challenge was making sure that the paint could be seen on the top of the negatives so that the features can be easily identified but also blended harmoniously into the base negatives. I achieved this by choosing a distinctive silhouette of a couple embracing and keeping the colour scheme monochromatic so the paint unified harmoniously with the monotone negatives.

I believe that I have been able to effectively produce a truly unique piece that reflects the increasing issue of how our society has become a throwaway society and the negative impacts that has on emotional relationships and physical environment. I was particularly pleased that my work reflects a style of my own and feel I have consequently grown as an artist by utilizing media in a diverse way to think more innovatively and develop my skills accordingly. Whilst this piece presented a number of challenges, it has resulted in a wonderfully personal piece through which was able to reflect on the importance of fixing problems in today's society.