

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Photosynthesis of Knowledge***

Tayha Leake

'Complexity' is a body of work made up of three paintings inspired by my passion for helping those in need and my interest in sponsoring a child in a poverty stricken country.

Originally, I wanted to focus on representing the complex issues of mental illness or racism intertwined in a confusing maze but I then changed my direction to the conceptual issues of poverty. My initial ideas and trials were inspired by David Agenjo's haphazard, emotive artworks. I found it important to explore different mediums including graphite pencil, charcoal, black and white paint, and ink to find a medium and technique that would best visually convey my ideas. By using the mazes I felt I was able to represent the plight children faced, showing that poverty is a journey of struggle and it is hard to break out of. By portraying an Indigenous, African and Korean child I was able to emphasise that people should be more open-minded about the reality of how many children of several different ethnicities struggle through poverty.

My aim was to choose confronting images that weren't your typical famine based photographs, furthermore, inspired by David Agenjo's cropped, abstract and emotion provoking artworks, I still focused on images providing a downhearted expression; not only this but leading me to moderately crop my portraits lower bodies to create a larger emphasis of the children's faces, to capture the oppressed look of anguish. The focus became the African child and the eyes being the main focal point in all portraits, the maze becoming a secondary focus, inspired by Sofia Bonati's illustrative artwork 'Eudoxia' where the artwork created depth and bold highlights to draw your eyes to the depth of despair, similarly as does mine, specifically alluding the struggle of famine within my work.

It became important that the viewer would take their time to create their own interpretation of the overlay of the maze and the portraits behind. The white paper with the verses from the Bible created a sense of delicate contrast and with only the coloured mapping it would have become less engaging with a lack of the brightness. When looking at the work your eye is drawn in to the maze which pulls you into the main body of work creating a successful aesthetic visual and compositional quality. The Bible verses concentrate on the topic of famine, compassion and hope, the conceptual idea behind this was not only to combine my faith within the artwork but to connect within the topic of my conceptual idea as a whole, whilst the mapping made the connection to the specific child's country and back ground ethnicity on each panel, these additions create more relativity towards the viewer, and brings a stronger engagement to have a deep impact on the viewer to not only see but to feel the sadness behind their faces and the loss of hope that they all seem to share.

The success of this body of work was due to the many trials of techniques, mediums and compositions in implementing and integrating the mix of medias together to convey the challenging conceptual idea.