

## Practitioner's Statement

### ***Life was a circus***

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Inspired to create an expressive and personally relevant artwork, this piece is a reflection of my life as a young girl. At 8 years old my parent's separated. This changed my world. I wanted to capture the whirlpool of emotions I experienced as suddenly my life was thrown into turmoil.

I sought inspiration from Oksana Tepp's semi-realistic style to influence my piece. The artist's use of symmetrical balance and strong contrast between textured background and subject matter was inspiring. Aaron Blabey and Marc Chagall's scumbling technique and muted colour scheme coupled with Chagall's narrative and figurative artwork influenced both subject matter and application of paint for my work.

The artwork depicts me as a young child, standing on a circus stool placed between my parents. The composition is made up of a section of two bodies (representing mum and dad); shoulder height to ankles. The intention of using only a section of the male and female figure was to portray a sense of isolation from my parents. At this time, I needed their continuing affection and support yet felt lonely, desperate and grief stricken. Often I acted out through naughty and silly behaviour, simply to seek attention from my parents. Hence, I chose a character to represent this. The expression on my character's face was chosen carefully to symbolically represent my fear, confusion, and desire for attention during this turbulent time, which ultimately had an impact on the whole family unit. The stool that the small figure stands on subtly helps to symbolise feeling like my life was a circus at that time. The horizon line anchors the whole composition.

Exercising a scumbling technique using a dull coloured palette has helped to create a confused and melancholy mood. The colour scheme creates a feeling that alludes to my unsettled life as a child. The symmetrically balanced composition and contrasting colours was intentionally chosen to make the child's figure the focal point. The size and placement of the child has also emphasised the main character. Tone and cast shadows has helped to create form.

Through directional lines, the dress and hair of the small figure leads the viewer's eye in a particular way creating visual movement. The placement and proportion of each figure in my work has formed unity. The parent figures are slightly elongated and out of proportion, yet this allows the child's figure to be large enough that it was dominant in the composition. The realistic proportion of the child assists to balance the positive and negative space.

Overall, I have successfully portrayed the emotions I experienced during my parent's separation, which was ultimately my intention. Through the placement and proportion of the composition along with the chosen colours and painting technique I have captured the isolation I felt during this time.