

A Human

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For this body of work, I knew I wanted to work on the human form and portray various ideas about people. I have synaesthesia, a neurological disorder that forms unusual pathways in the brain, causing associations between seemingly unrelated things, like sounds and colours. I have mainly Chromesthesia, which is the association of sounds, people and things with colours. I decided to use my synaesthesia to help inspire these artworks.

Once I had thought of the idea for the works, I was unsure which direction I wanted to go with it. I knew I wanted to represent an aspect of myself, or of how I saw myself through my synaesthesia, but I had such vast inspirations that I could not decide which aspect to choose. I finally decided to do a body of work so that I could paint representations of all of the things I wanted to, and did not have to choose one specific focus. I think this decision made for a more successful final product, and allowed me to go into more emotional depth while creating the works.

I used myself as a model for each painting because I wanted the pieces to be an exercise in understanding my own feelings about myself, and I knew I would be able to convey my own thoughts and feelings in the works better than I can convey others'. The colours of each piece were inspired mostly by different moods, or how I was feeling when I painted them, or by certain personal events. I wanted the individual pieces to show moods and feelings, and for the full body of work to be viewed as a complete personality, made up of many thoughts and emotions.

I was inspired by other artists with synaesthesia, most heavily Melissa McCracken, who paints music, and David Hockney, who paints about his life and experience, while drawing inspiration from his synaesthesia. These two artists provided the biggest influence because they have the same type of synaesthesia as me, and because they painted about things I was interested in and wanted to explore in my works. Hockney in particular inspired me because of his approach to perspective and realism - he rarely focuses on providing a realistic adaptation of what he experiences. Rather, he prioritises emotion, which I definitely tried to do in my own works, rather than trying to make each painting look exactly like me or exactly proportionally correct.

Some of the works show a theme of decay or death. These works are based off my first folio from the beginning of the year, about the impact that humans have on animals. This folio began with exploration of relationships between animals and humans, but as I explored my ideas and researched more artists, I realised there were relationships between humans and animals that are less obvious, such as our impact on the environment and the long-lasting effects of our actions while we are alive, such as human-made pollution and climate change. The portraits exploring this theme also show aspects of a personality - the relationships we have with others and with our surroundings, the consequences of our choices, and the inevitability of decay, or change, over time.

The artists that most inspired these artworks were Elia Fernandez and Pawel Kuczynski. Fernandez paints using watercolour, doing delicate portraits with recurring motifs of animals interacting with the subject. To me, her works most often show the fragility of relationships between creatures, and how we

affect each other and our environments. Her work inspired the watery look of the paint in my works, and the emotion in the portraits was influenced by the emotion of her portraits. Kuczynski influenced my work a lot, with his works each telling a story or pushing a somewhat political agenda. His works inspired a sense of determination in me, and I decided I wanted to say something important with my paintings.

The artworks best showing this theme would be the green portrait on the right-hand side, and the smaller purple portrait, also on the right-hand side. The green work shows the growth and new things that life brings, and that we bring about through choices, and the grey over the eyes shows the blindness or reluctance that we can sometimes have towards change. The purple work shows the emotion, strain and guilt one might feel when a bad choice is made. Humans make mistakes, sometimes repeatedly, and I really wanted one of my pieces in the body of work to relate to this sentiment.

The body of work is called A Human because it is a representation of a full personality. I drew inspiration from many aspects of human life, such as belonging, thought and choice, and I believe I have successfully portrayed the vastness of a personality in these artworks. I believe the emotion in the portraits adequately portrays the worries, fears and excitement that we feel, and that I felt while creating this body of work.

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