



IB Visual Art
2022
Elena

DULWICH COLLEGE | SHANGHAI PUDONG |
上海德威外籍人员子女学校 (浦东)

A large central artwork featuring a woman with large, white, feathered wings, looking upwards. The bottom of the artwork is filled with a field of colorful flowers. The text "IB Visual Art 2022 Elena" is overlaid on the right side of the artwork. At the bottom right, there is a small logo and the text "DULWICH COLLEGE | SHANGHAI PUDONG | 上海德威外籍人员子女学校 (浦东)".



Curatorial Rationale

The exhibition space is set up to feel like a step inside my mind; it is set up to explore the central theme of fears I have towards death. Commonly witnessing deaths around me has had a toll on my mind and my mental health, thus resulting in new fears occurring in my mind and taking up that space. Those past experiences have inspired me to explore the contrasting idea between life and death, the cycle of death, ascension after death and the overwhelming feeling death constantly creates in my mind.

In my exhibition space, I would have designed it to feel as if the viewer was entering my mind space; this would've been achieved by the room-like layout of the exhibition. I would have included moths stuck on the walls to create an overwhelming feeling when entering the space and the feeling of death nagging at your mind.

Fear of death is common in all my artworks as they are all linked through the common art medium and moths surrounding them. Hinting towards different cultural perceptions towards death make the exhibition informative.

The opening artwork would be "kissed by death", it is an introductory artwork towards the theme, which will be present throughout the whole exhibition. It depicts death in a human form but without any distinct facial features, meaning it can be interpreted as anyone by the viewer. It also introduces the common medium used throughout the other artworks; embroidery symbolizes the irreversible effects of death.

This follows with the collage "Cycle", which shows the repeated daily pattern people experience, depicting the fear of missing out on life and dying too soon.

The main artwork in my exhibition is called "the in-between" it is aimed to introduce the contrast between life and death, with the flowers symbolizing life and the moths surrounding it symbolizing death. The angel is a common symbol of death in all cultures and t

The final piece, "Spilled guts", is in an almost empty corner; this is due to the relieving feeling hopes creates in people's minds, the belief of something being there after death is a consoling factor for lots. It ends the exhibition with a positive look at the afterlife. This is made to be a minimalistic end as it leaves space for interpretation and a personal takeaway.



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The In-between

December 2021

Stitching on canvas

42.0 x 59.4 cm

My intent with this piece is to introduce the contrasting idea of life and death. The stitched flowers represent life, while the sewing represents the permanence your life had on others. The photograph of an angel represents a good omen of forgiveness, bringing forth the idea of forgiveness when dying. I have purposefully chosen to use bright and soft light as it has been commonly described that visions of angels have looked similar to this. Angel is dressed in clothes like old fairy tales.





Cycle

January 2022

Stitching, etching, collage

Size?

My intent with this collage is to show the repeated daily pattern people experience, thus the fear of living a constant repetitive cycle before death. The circle representing the infinite circle of life, while the snake symbolizes the change, due to its shedding of skin, that we go through during our lives, with the stitching bonding it all together. In Greek culture, snakes physically represent the good and evil within a human, linking to wanting to leave the haunting of evil behind after death.





Kissed by death

February 2022

Stitching, oil pastel, oil paint on canvas

Size?

My intent with this stitching is to represent the overwhelming feeling of the kiss of death, through the contrasting colors used for the lips. Blue colors represent the feeling of grief, created by death towards people witnessing it. The mixed mediums have been used to amplify different layers of grievance towards death. The hands and composition have been highly inspired by Egon Schiele, bringing forth his expressive body language to stimulate an emotive response from the viewer.





Moths

February 2022

Linocut

Size?

Moths are a symbol of death in my culture, with the scattering of them, creating an overwhelming feeling of death surrounding you and following you. The tones of grey are a few tones lighter than the dark color usually associated with death, this makes death feel like a lighter topic. The exhibition itself is a space created to symbolize my mind, with the fear towards death being constantly there, surrounding me.





Spilled guts

March 2022

Stitching on canvas

Size?

My intention with this piece is believing in life after death, inspired by the Aztec sacrifice ritual, which was used to ascend to a stronger form after death. This piece is intended to question the cycle within the exhibition and therefore what happens after death. The stitching in this piece links all of the existing pieces together through using the same medium. The composition is minimalistic to draw focus to the color and chaos created by the stitching.



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