

Denisa Balazova

## Curatorial Rationale

The main connection and focus in my work is hands. I wanted to express different emotions and convey diverse ideas through my artworks by using hands and various hand gestures. Many people say that eyes are the window to a person's soul, thus, for my own work I wanted to see whether the same thing could be said about hands. As in my opinion hands can tell as much as eyes. There are many different themes that run throughout my work some are hidden but some are rather obvious. The stronger themes include self-identity and identity in general, perspectives, detachment, growing old, and abuse of power.



There are many people who are struggling in this world, which is why vast majority of my work is inspired by negative feelings. With my work I want to bring a sense of relief to the people who struggle with these feeling to show them that they are in fact not alone. My artworks chosen for this exhibition are anonymous and have no identity. This was done so that the audience could put themselves in the position showing how universal these feelings are. That anybody from anywhere in the world, no matter who they are can feel that way which I hope would make the viewers feel like they are not alone in this. Thus, my main goal is to make people see that there are other people in this world who go through these struggles which might make the viewer feel less worried. Because they will be able to see that having these feeling is normal.

All my artworks have no or very simple backgrounds because I want the audience to focus on the meanings and the centre of the pieces rather than the background. For all my artworks I have used a variety of different art techniques including, photography, painting, and drawing. I decided to use different media as some people may find themselves gravitating more towards one art style and other people will gravitate towards other art styles. For the artwork '**I'm a nobody, I'm useless, I'm a mistake**' I used a bullet point pen to create the artwork as other media such as paint would not allow me to create the same effect that I was able to create using the words.

As for the arrangement of my artworks, I decided to arrange them by their size. From the biggest to the smallest. So as the viewer is walking through and looking at my works, they will continuously keep getting smaller, smaller, and smaller. Thus, the order of my artworks goes '**TRAPPED**', '**lost**', '**time is a social construct**', '**I'm a nobody, I'm useless, I'm a mistake**' '**time is ticking**', '**looks deceive**', '**Ughh**', and finally '**missing the point**'. I did this to show the viewers a sense of hope, in a way a 'light at the end of the tunnel'. As the whole idea behind my exhibition and my main goal is to show the viewers that things can get better, and that they are not alone. So, the artworks getting smaller serves as a way of communicating to the viewers that over time things can change for the better even if it may seem impossible. The choice of creating separations from some of the artworks was done to show that with life come obstacles. So, it is our choice whether we keep going into the unknown in hopes of finding something better or whether we stop and give up.

A lot of my inspiration for my own work has come from various artists I have studied. For example, my artwork called '**lost**' is heavily inspired by an artist named Philip Sugden. I was inspired by his use of fabrics in his artworks and how he hides the subject's identity which brought me to the idea of identity loss. Another artist that I got a lot of inspiration from is Henry Moore. I really love his hand drawing style and that has inspired many of my artworks such as '**I'm a nobody, I'm useless, I'm a mistake**' but also the work '**looks deceive**'.