

CURATORIAL RATIONALE

My body of work has moved through several different ideas and perspectives but my art is specifically related to the theme of birds and the influence that humankind has on these animals. My work primarily consists of acrylic and oil paintings but I have also tried to broaden my skills and to challenge myself in art forms that I would never think of by exploring linocut, mixed media, clay, sculpture and performance art so that the viewer is able to understand birds not only from different perspectives but from various visuals that are tangible and that don't just explicitly show a bird but try to represent its identity through myself and through 3D pieces.

The artwork I have selected is centred around the appreciation and addressal of the physical and mental nature of birds and how this is influenced by man. I hope to set up my exhibition in way that transgresses through looking at a bird and appreciating it externally and looking at how man has tarnished that physically and internally. In my exhibition space, the first piece would be the 'Untitled' pencil piece of an eagle which is then followed by black and white pieces which represent the effects of plastics on birds. I then placed my acrylic and linocut pieces after because I wanted to portray the influence of pollution particularly plastics and habitat displacement from deforestation on birds: Hence, how man affects birds physically. After, my mixed media piece 'A Plastic Ocean' follows because I wanted to show the emotional and internal effect of oceanic pollution on birds by placing man in the position of pain; thus right after I put myself in the box so that the viewer can now empathise with birds as I would be in their place in a metaphorical cage. The transgression of my ideas then moved onto pet trade when I was in the box and challenging the idea of freedom by placing a man in a cage in my oil piece entitled 'Freedom' and questioning its basis and the extent to which an individual or organism can truly be free by putting my acrylic piece of the liberation of my country, Zimbabwe, in celebrating independence from colonialism and putting their oppressors in their former position. Hence my space allows the viewer to question the extent at which pollution, pet trade and deforestation is justified and finally end by looking at my sculptural pieces: these of which attempt to portray the psychological influence of man on birds.

The meaning of my work is primarily influenced by the experiences I have had since moving to Thailand. For example, my performance piece "Caged In" was my reaction towards the treatment of birds and other pet animals at the Chatuchak Market in Bangkok. Walking through the aisles and aisles of mistreated animals I saw birds chained down to posts and constricted into small cages and I wanted to reflect that inner pain by putting myself in a closed box. The pieces entitled "Suffocated" and "A plastic ocean" were inspired by the 2013 documentary 'A Plastic Ocean' by Craig Leeson which shows the amount and effect of plastic pollution in the world's oceans. In being an ESS student my teacher is very passionate about marine biology and because I was able to see the world and the environment from his eyes and perspective I was able to have a greater appreciation for it and form my own point of view through my art through the lens of birds.

My pieces were initially related to a childhood likening to the Disney animation Rio, and then I linked this aspect of me to my passion for the environment and its protection and sustainability which grew from taking Environmental Systems and Societies as a subject; My vision is to portray a story as the work transgresses and see the influence of man physically, mentally and situationally on birds: We will, therefore, be allowed to see the symbolism of seeing how birds may feel in reaction to man's actions and be reflective on our role.