



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

# Visual arts

## Process Portfolio

### Student A (SL)

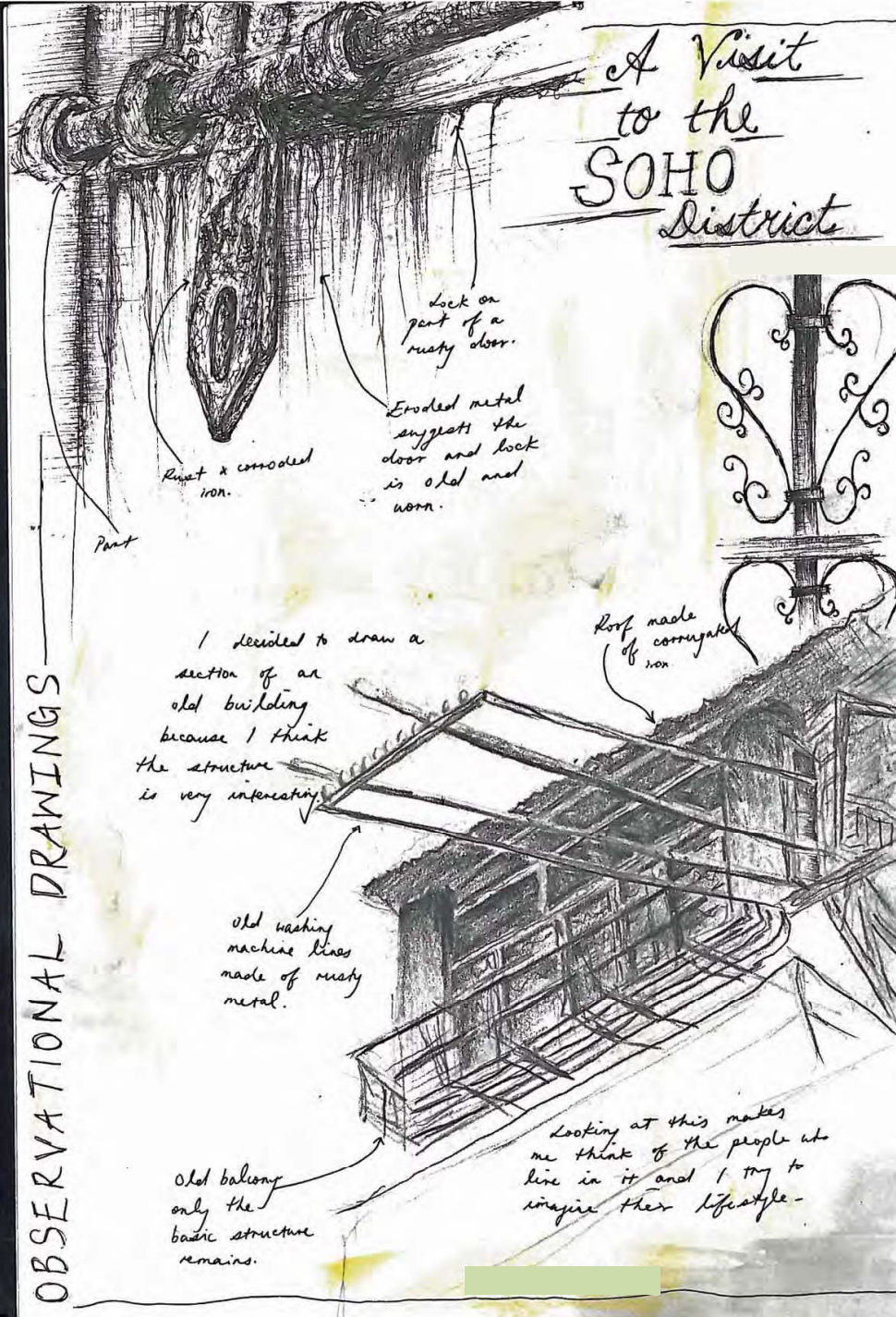
Please note that these sample materials have been fabricated to allow for translation and copyright issues. These samples are not intended to prescribe how materials should be presented for assessment.

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2012

International Baccalaureate® | Baccalauréat International® | Bachillerato Internacional®

OBSERVATIONAL DRAWINGS

# A Visit to the SOHO District



## Observational drawings

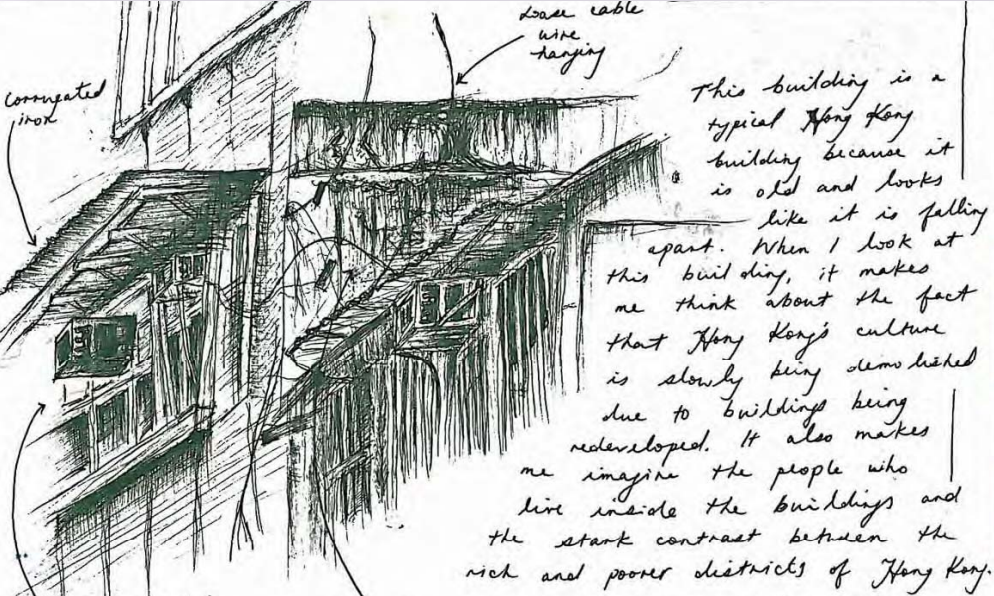
A visit to the Soho district, Hong Kong.

- Lock on part of the rusty door
- Eroded metal suggests the door and lock is old and worn
- Rust and corroded iron
- Paint

I decided to draw a section of an old building because I think the structure is very interesting.

- Roof made of corrugated iron
- Old washing lines made of rusty metal
- Old balcony, only the basic structure remains

Looking at this makes me think of the people who live in it and I try to imagine their lifestyle.



This building is a typical Hong Kong building because it is old and looks like it is falling apart. When I look at this building, it makes me think about the fact that Hong Kong's culture is slowly being demolished due to buildings being redeveloped. It also makes me imagine the people who live inside the buildings and the stark contrast between the rich and poorer districts of Hong Kong.

Typical old building which can be found in HK.

Mould and rust-streaked walls create interesting texture.

A lot of old buildings can be found in the Soho area. They look similar to the ones shown below.

The photo I took (on the right) makes me feel nostalgic as it reminds me of the history of Hong Kong, as well as the old buildings which can be found all over the city. I really like how it clearly displays the individual characteristics of Hong Kong's traditional style buildings. I added the vintage effect on the photo on Photoshop because I think it amplifies the ancient features of Hong Kong's buildings.



### Observational drawings

This building is a typical Hong Kong building because it is old and looks like it is falling apart. When I look at this building, it makes me think about the fact that Hong Kong's culture is slowly being demolished due to building being redeveloped. It also makes me imagine the people who live inside the buildings and the stark contrast between the rich and the poorer districts of Hong Kong.

- Corrugated iron
- Loose cable wire hanging
- Typical old building which can be found in Hong Kong
- Mould and rust-streaked walls create interesting texture

The photo I took (on the right) makes me feel nostalgic as it reminds me of the history of Hong Kong, as well as the old buildings which can be found all over the city. I really like how it clearly displays the individual characteristics of Hong Kong's traditional style of buildings. I added the vintage effect on the photo on Photoshop because I think it amplifies the ancient features of Hong Kong's buildings.

- A lot of buildings can be found in the Soho area. They look similar to the ones shown below.

I am interested in the concept of 'imprisonment'.

### Primary observation

This ink drawing is one of my hand wrapped up in string.

My hand is bound tightly to suggest the hard effect of being imprisoned.

This drawing focuses on texture and shapes, and I really like the bulging flesh on the sides. The tightness is also suggestive of entrapment, similar to imprisonment on a physical level.





Secondary observation

Simple studies obtained from secondary sources.

I decided to do secondary observational sketches so they help me think about my concept of 'imprisonment' and inspire me.

This is a pen drawing of a chain with rust on it. Objects such as bars, chains and barbed wire can represent imprisonment on a literal level.

The drawing below is of a person behind prison bars. This is a typical physical representation within social expectations and within the idea of drug addiction.

Prison band.

- Ink on paper and paint coated newspaper.

Sources

- <http://dpiagan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/chain-links.jpg> (Nov. 2013)
- <http://persian2english.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/hands-bar.jpg> (Nov. 2013)

# My Work in style of... Agnes Cecile.

This piece was painted with water colour and blue and white acrylic paint to highlight and define certain areas. I do not like this piece (although it is only experimental) because it lacks detail and tonal accuracy. However, I like how the vibrant colours along with the free-flowing hair captures the theme of freedom in the mind.

## EXPERIMENTAL PIECE 1



The photo above was taken by me capturing the movement in the model's hair as inspired by Cecile.



## EXPERIMENTAL PIECE 2



The piece on the left which I painted is a replication of Agnes Cecile's piece where the purpose was to emphasize and explore technique as well as colour. The smaller



picture shows the process of layering with white acrylic paint was used over watercolour to make colours more bold and to give the effect of texture.

## My work in style of by Agnes Cecile

### Experimental piece 1

This piece was painted with water colour and blue and white acrylic paint to highlight and define certain areas. I do not like this piece (although it is only experimental) because it lacks detail and tonal accuracy. However I like how the vibrant colours along with the free-flowing hair captures the theme of freedom in the mind.

- The photo above was taken by me capturing the movements in the model's hair as inspired by Cecile.

### Experimental piece 2

The piece on the left which I painted is a duplicate of Agnes Cecile's piece "Nothing is enough" (2011), where the purpose was to emphasize and explore technique as well as colour. The smaller picture shows the process of layering with white. Acrylic paint was used over water colour to make colours more bold and to give the effective of texture.

### Sources

<http://www.deviantart.com/art/nothing-is-enough-210836052> (Nov. 2013)

# ALYSSA MONKS

Alyssa Monks is a contemporary Artist who specializes in photorealism with oil paint on linen. Her work first captured my attention because I like the style of her paintings and the way her subjects are composed is similar to mine.

Monks' art links closely with my theme of freedom and imprisonment, as she explains she likes ideas to flow organically & not forced, which relates to my theme of having freedom in the mind. A lot of Alyssa Monks paintings include having a person pressed against shower doors, which can represent imprisonment. In my interpretation, Monks uses the act of being behind a shower door in order to represent being trapped in aspects of everyday life.

The painting is composed by having the subject placed towards the left; the first thing which captures my attention is the subject's eyes and particularly like the simplicity of the painting and the fact that only half the subject's face is exposed. Her focus on portraiture and tight composition around the subject's face adds to the expressionist style of her paintings.

Monks claims that she does not impose a specific emotion or message through her work, rather allows the viewer to reflect and interpret it personally. I am greatly inspired by the artist and will incorporate aspects of her work into mine, such as drawing focus to the eyes and rearranging the composition of my paintings so only half the subject's face shows.

Monks claims that she does not impose a specific emotion or message through her work, rather allows the viewer to reflect and interpret it personally.

I am greatly inspired by the artist and will incorporate aspects of her work into mine, such as drawing focus to the eyes and rearranging the composition of my paintings so only half the subject's face shows.

THERE IS NO WAY TO ESCAPE ONE'S OWN SURROUNDINGS"

To view this image please search online:



"Wake", 2009, Alyssa Monks

To view these images please search online:



"Steamed", 2009, Alyssa Monks

"Smirk" 2009, Alyssa Monks

"Koi", 2010, Alyssa Monks

## Influence from other artists

"There is no way to escape one's own surroundings"

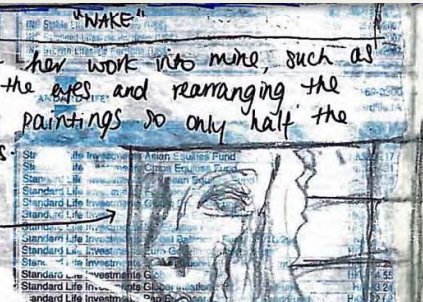
Alyssa Monks is a contemporary artist who specializes in photorealism with oil paint on linen. Her work first captured my attention because I like the style of her paintings and the way her subjects are composed is similar to mine.

Monk's art links closely with my developing concept of freedom and imprisonment as she explains she likes ideas to flow organically and not forced, which relates to my theme of having freedom in the mind. A lot of Alyssa Monks' paintings include having a person pressed against shower doors, which can represent imprisonment. In my interpretation, Monks uses the act of being behind a shower door in order to represent being trapped in aspects of every day life.

The painting is composed by having the subject placed towards the left. The first thing which captures my attention is the subject's eyes. I particularly like the simplicity of the painting and the fact that only half of the subject's face is exposed. Her focus on portraiture and tight composition around the subject's faces adds to the expressionist style of her paintings. Monks claims that she does not impose a specific emotion or message through her work, but rather allows the viewer to reflect and interpret it personally. I am greatly inspired by the artist and will incorporate aspects of her work into mine, such as drawing focus to the eyes and rearranging the composition of my paintings so only half the subject's face shows.

## Sources

- <http://www.alyssamonks.com> (Dec. 2013)



# THE HUMAN FORM

"Curves & Shadows,  
The female form."  
- Olli Wendelin

## FORM

The sketch on the left is of a photo of a female body. I want to look into how the society's perception of the ideal female body has changed through history.

Leonardo  
Da Vinci

Study of the  
human form.



A pen study of the human form - bone structure in style of Da Vinci.

to see, as well as hair it," Davies said. "I cent, him and (capt. Davies is not in the Wo.

...and the force would be "connecting the club in due course has been committed". Britain's News of the World newspaper reported that the England left-back (pictured) fired a 22 air rifle at 21-year-old Tom Cowan, thinking it was not loaded. AFP

20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
- 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

The left is a sketch of the stereotypical ideal male figure - but is the society's expectation realistic?

I want to study the extent to which one goes in order to achieve the 'perfect' human form.

The above sketch is a comparison of Da Vinci's sketch studying the INTERNAL human form - a scientific approach. However, I would like to concentrate on the exterior and base my final on a concept or controversial issue such as abortion, which this sketch has inspired me to think about since it observes the internal and more biological point of the human form.

### The human form

- "Curves & Shadows, The Female Form" Olli Wendelin, 2008 (photographer)

The sketch on the left is from a photo of a female body. I want to look into how a society's perception of the ideal female body has changed through history.

- Study of the human form, Leonard Da Vinci
- A pen study of the human form bone structure in the style of Da Vinci

The above sketch is a comparison of Da Vinci's sketch studying the internal human form - a scientific approach. However, I would like to concentrate on the exterior and base my final work on a concept or controversial issue such as abortion, which this sketch has inspired me to think about since it observes the internal and more biological point of the human form.

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century - 21<sup>st</sup> Century

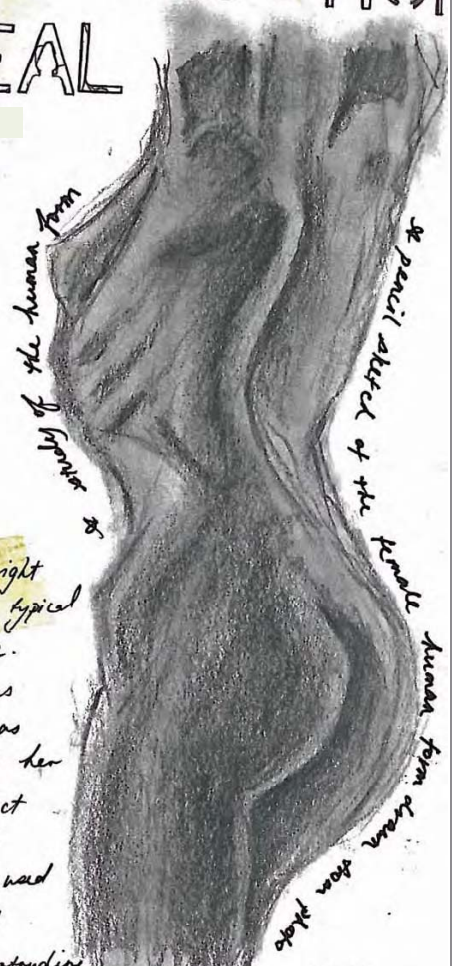
The left is a sketch of the stereotypical ideal male figure - but is the society expectation realistic? I want to study the extent to which one goes in order to achieve the 'perfect' human form

### Sources

- <http://www.oliwendelin.com/Curves%20&%20Shadows.html>
  - <http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/kmiragaya/kmiragaya1207/kmiragaya120700038/14376169-ancient-anatomical-drawings-made-by-leonardo-davinci-a-study-of-the-human-bones-and-joints-showing-a.jpg>
- (all websites visited November 2013)



# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE IDEAL HUMAN FORM AND THE RISKS WE UNDERGO TO ACHIEVE IT.



The sketch on the right is a pencil sketch of the typical figure a female would desire. The human form shows obvious curves yet is still skinny, as suggested by the visibility of her ribs. I quite like the effect of pencil as it shows good tonal range, which can be used to emphasize the shape and structure of the body e.g. protruding bones etc. The drawing on the right makes me think about the extent to which women go through in order to achieve the figure they want, and the issues which are brought about due to this. I want my piece to reflect on whether the social construction of the ideal female human form is acceptable, and what happens when people go too far.

## Social construction of the ideal human form and the risks we undergo to achieve it

- A study of the human form. A pencil sketch of the female form drawn from a photo.

The sketch on the right is a pencil sketch of the typical figure a female would desire. The human form shows obvious curves yet is still skinny, as suggested by the visibility of her ribs. I quite like the effect of pencil as it shows good tonal range, which can be used to emphasize the shape and structure of the body, e.g. protruding bones etc. The drawing on the right makes me think about the efforts women go to in order to achieve the figure they want, and the issues which are brought about due to this. I want my body of work to reflect on whether the social construction of the ideal female human form is acceptable, and what happens when people go too far.

### Sources

- <http://www.photoshelter.com/img-get/I0000iR9ObHS8Mx4/s/1000/601/Study-of-Jana-6.jpg> (Oct. 2013)

h bubble  
ical  
t Agree  
e. In the  
e renun-  
orma-  
claim to  
-per-  
clan  
er na-  
voted to  
) Irish  
into ex-  
the pris-  
ial leg-  
e  
1.  
al ac-  
tory,  
agree-  
lain,  
th oc-  
God-  
condi-  
an was

doing

moder-  
g for  
ic-  
al po-  
al-  
ains

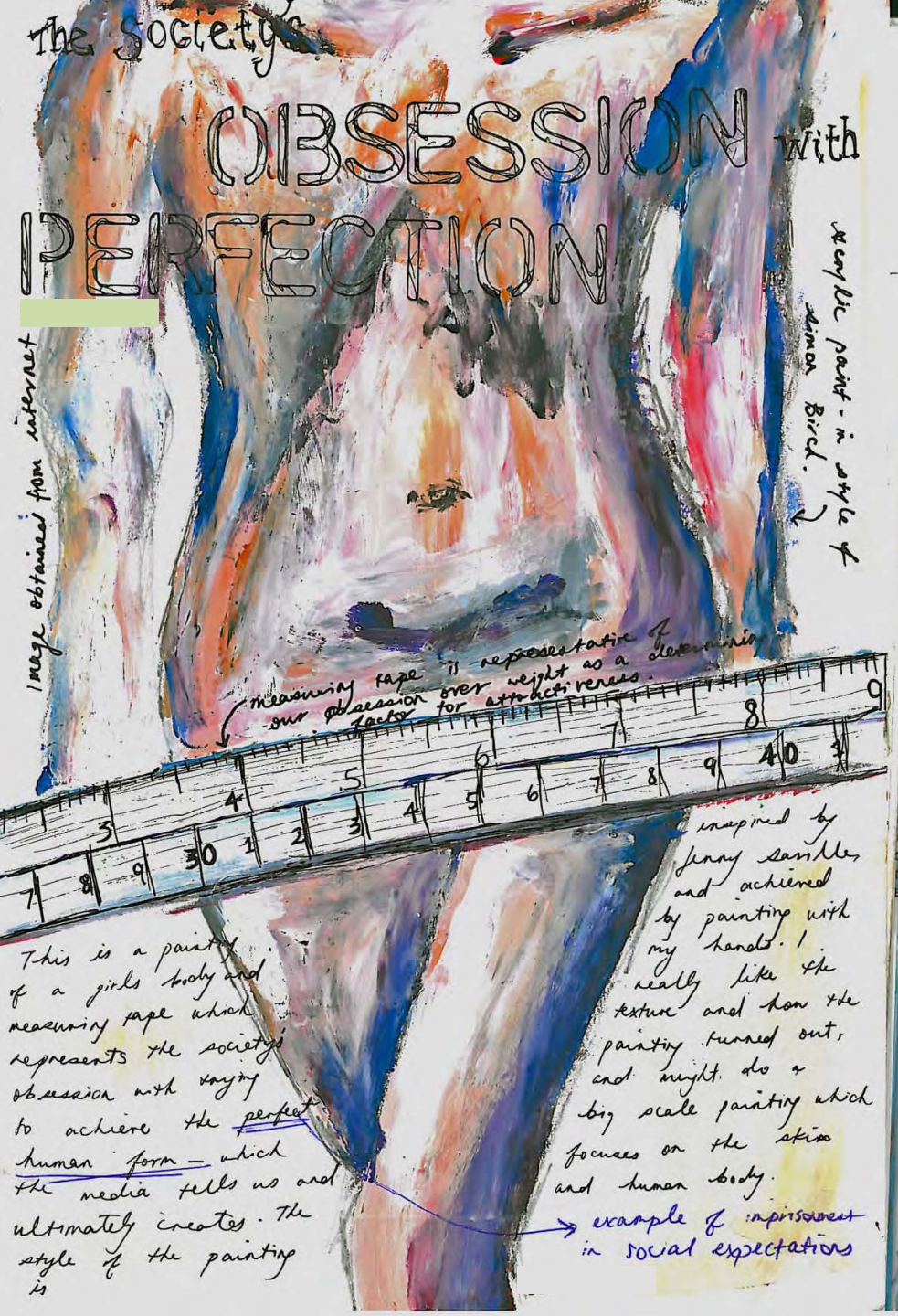
in  
the  
con-  
e

ia  
m  
e ex-  
lity  
d  
nd the  
...  
il  
me  
ax  
U

ty co-  
e-  
th  
gen-  
ess,  
for  
ve

media influence?

html



**The society's obsession with perfection**

- Image obtained from the internet
- Acrylic paint in style of Simon Birch
- Measuring tape is representative of our obsession over weight as a defining factor for attractiveness

This is a painting of a girl's body and measuring tape which represents the society's obsession with trying to achieve the perfect human form – which the media tells us and ultimately creates.

The style of the painting is inspired by Jenny Saville and achieved by painting with my hands. I really like the texture and how the painting turned out. I might do a big style painting which focuses on the skin and human body.

This is an example of imprisonment in social expectations.

**Sources**

- [http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3lcGOPIjOI/UPjW1F\\_Pj3I/AAAAAAAAU0I/2qu5rgC6nXk/s1600/Hooligan+Class+2009\\_153x122cm.640x960.jpeg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3lcGOPIjOI/UPjW1F_Pj3I/AAAAAAAAU0I/2qu5rgC6nXk/s1600/Hooligan+Class+2009_153x122cm.640x960.jpeg)
  - <http://thegrandnarrative.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/womans-waist-tape-measure.jpg>
  - <http://www.hurstpierpointcollege.co.uk/artblog/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Saville.jpg>
- (all websites visited November 2013)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EYES IN ASIAN CULTURES

David Terrazas's photography can be linked to the significance of eyes in Asian cultures. This is because in a lot of his portrait photography, the focus is on the subjects' eyes. In typical Asian societies, it is considered disrespectful to stare into another person's eyes. In crowded situations, the Chinese avoid eye contact to give themselves privacy.

© David Terrazas 2011



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EYES IN THE ASIAN CULTURE

This relates to the theme of freedom and imprisonment; in conservative Asian societies, there are many cultural customs that are required to be obeyed, thus people are imprisoned within their social expectations. For example, in patriarchal societies such as India, women are imprisoned in their female identity. In David Terrazas's photos, the subjects appear to be rebelling against the Asian rules for eye contact by looking straight into the camera. I believe the people's faces imply they long for a sense of freedom from Asian social expectations.

pencil and pen sketch of an old Asian woman, emphasizing on skin texture

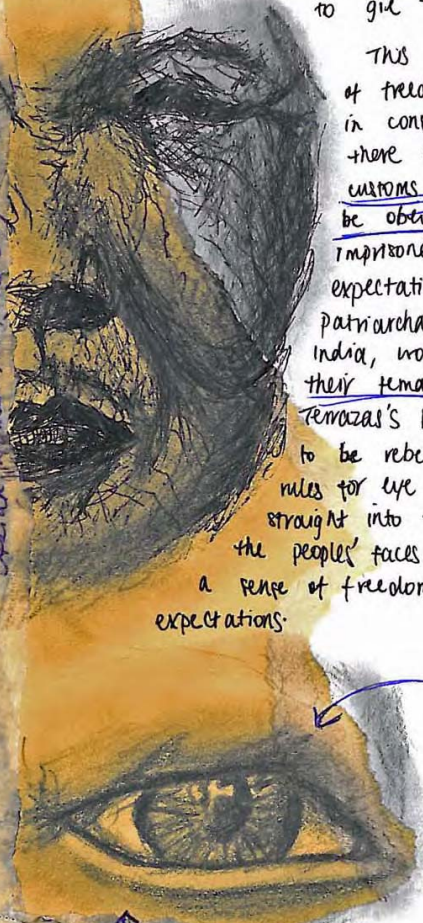


photo of a young Asian girl who appears to be looking at the camera

pencil sketch of an eye derived from photo on right

Inspired by David Terrazas

The significance of eyes in Asian culture

David Terrazas's photography can be linked to the significance of eyes in Asian culture. This is because in a lot of his portrait photography, the focus is on the subject's eyes. In typical Asian societies, it is considered disrespectful to stare into another person's eyes. In crowded situations the Chinese avoid eye contact to give themselves privacy.

This relates to the concept of freedom and imprisonment. In many conservative Asian societies there are many customs that are required to be obeyed, thus people are imprisoned within their social expectations. For example, in patriarchal societies such as India, women are imprisoned in their female identity. In David Terrazas's photos, the subjects appear to be rebelling against the Asian rules for eye contact by looking straight into the camera. I believe the people's faces imply they long for a sense of freedom from Asian social expectations.

- Pencil and pen sketch of an old Asian woman, emphasizing the skin texture.
- Pencil sketch of an eye derived from the photo on the right of a young Asian girl who appears to be looking at the camera.

Sources

- <http://www.davidterrazasphotography.com>
  - <http://iconolo.gy/sites/default/files/David-Terrazas10.jpg>
- (Dec. 2013)



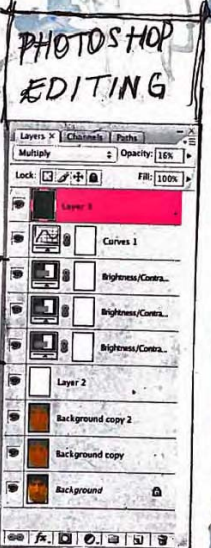
This is a photo of an experimental piece on canvas. I have taken photographs which are David Terrazas inspired and edited them on Photoshop. The photos were put together to represent imprisonment in a SOCIETY. The composition and editing make the photographs look similar however, after examining, it is obvious the people are all different. This symbolises individuality and mental freedom in a society which strives for conformity (under its rules) & expectations. The photo on the right is an example of how the photos need to look. Ink is rubbed or dripped on to represent prison bars. I like the overall impact however think the ink is too distracting and will develop this piece further.



sample of a photograph I used with ink rubbed in - there is emphasis in the eyes.



the whole photo is made darker  
 curves are adjusted to black areas and grey in colour  
 the brightness and contrast is increased in order to enhance details  
 the photo is made black & white, like Terrazas's  
 the eyes are brightened with the dodge tool  
 the shadows and highlights are adjusted to details stand out more visibly.



ORIGINAL PHOTO

**Developing ideas – working with photography**

This is a photo of an experimental piece on canvas. I have taken photographs which are inspired by David Terrazas and edited them on Photoshop. The photos were put together to represent my concept of imprisonment in a society. The composition and editing make the photographs look similar, however after examining, it is obvious the people are all different. This symbolizes individuality and mental freedom in a society which strives for conformity (under its rules) and expectations.

The photo on the right is an example of how the photos need to look. Ink is rubbed and dripped on to represent prison bars. I like the overall impact however think the ink is too distracting and will develop this piece further.

Sample of photo I used with ink rubbed in. There is emphasis in the eyes.

**Photoshop editing**

The whole photo is made darker. Curves are adjusted to black areas and grey in colour. The brightness and contrast is increased in order to enhance details. The photo is made black and white, like Terrazas's. The eyes are brightened using the dodge tool. The shadows and highlights are adjusted so details stand out more visibly.

**Sources**

- Screenshot taken from PhotoShop™ (Adobe Systems)

# Experimenting with Pencil

## Pencil

A rough pencil sketch of a self portrait taken from a photograph of myself.

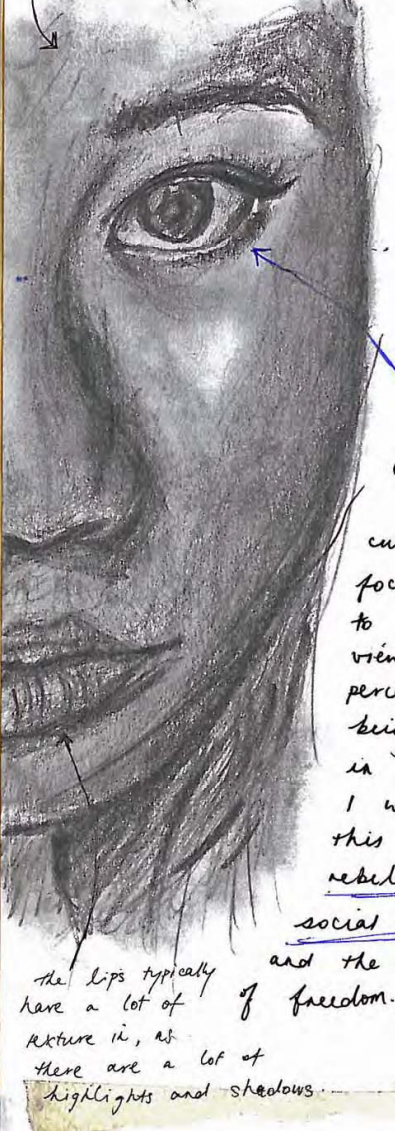


photo realism is often indistinguishable from photographs. Chuck Close sketches / paintings appear photographic.

The drawing on the left is a rough sketch of a section of a self portrait photograph, inspired by David Terrazas. The drawing itself is inspired by Chuck Close's photo realism self portraits.

The reason I chose pencil is because it allows me to capture details with fine lines and create tone. Furthermore, the black and white can represent freedom and imprisonment as contrasting elements.

The piece relates to Asian cultures, as the sketch or photograph focus on the eyes which is meant to be staring directly at the viewer, something perceived as being non-normative in Asian cultures I would like this to represent rebellion against social expectations

and the uncontrollability of freedom.

The lips typically have a lot of texture in, as there are a lot of highlights and shadows.

The photo is a self-portrait in which I will use for my sketch.

COMPOSITION:



### Experimenting with pencil

A rough pencil sketch of a self portrait taken from a photograph of myself.

The drawing on the left is a rough sketch of a section of a self portrait photograph, inspired by David Terrazas. The drawing itself is inspired by Chuck Close's photorealism self portraits. Photorealism is often indistinguishable from photographs. Chuck Close's sketches and paintings appear to be photographic.

The reason I chose pencil is because it allows me to capture details with fine lines and create tone. Furthermore, the black and white can represent freedom and imprisonment as contrasting elements.

The piece relates to Asian cultures, as the sketch and photograph focus on the eyes, which are meant to be staring directly at the viewer, something perceived as being non-normative in Asian cultures. I would like this to represent rebelling against social expectations and the uncontrollability of freedom.

The lips typically have a lot of texture in, as there are a lot of highlights and shadows.

The photo is a self-portrait which I will use for my sketch.

### Sources

- <https://drnorth.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/chuck-close-self-portrait-daguerreotypes.jpg> (visited website November 2013)

Ultimate freedom only exists in the mind and imagination; we are imprisoned in society by expectations.

In this piece I wanted to show that each individual holds their own freedom. This is symbolized by the hand and feathers, which typically represent freedom.

I plan to do a series of pencil sketches which represent freedom and imprisonment for juxtaposing effects.

I would like to use pencil in order to capture detail so the photorealistic look of the sketches can be maximized. This is a pen drawing of my hand.

Each person holds their own freedom.

photoshop to add in the feathers. the sketch composition is indicated in pen



feathers are normally associated with freedom, liberty and peace. Putting a sketch which represents freedom next to another which shows imprisonment will create contrast and further accentuate both abstract nouns.

pencil composition of the sketch

**Developing ideas:**

'Freedom only exists within'

Ultimate freedom only exists in the mind and imaginations; we are imprisoned in society by expectations. Feathers are normally associated with freedom, liberty and peace. Putting a sketch which represents freedom next to another which shows imprisonment will create contrast and further accentuate both abstract nouns.

In this piece I wanted to show that each individual holds their own freedom. This is symbolized by the hand and feathers, which typically represent freedom. I plan to do a series of pencil sketches which represent freedom and imprisonment for juxtaposing effects.

Pencil composition of the sketch.

Each person holds their own freedom: I would like to use pencil in order to capture detail so the photorealistic look of the sketches can be maximized. This is a pen drawing of my hand, taken from the photo below. The photo below is a self-portrait and has been edited on Photoshop to add in the feathers. The sketch composition is indicated in pen.

**Sources**

- <http://www.photl.com/www3/photos/2009/08/24/0215/wm150512tt.jpg> (visited website October 2013)

# IMPRISONED BY SOCIETY

This is a pencil sketch of my own eye, drawn from a photo taken by my

sister. The drawing is emotive & conceptual in order for the viewer to reflect upon seeing it. The forcefulness of the hands forcing my eye open is symbolic of society forcing us to interpret actions in certain ways, e.g. cultural norms. Therefore, it relates to my theme of imprisonment, because it shows how individuals are forced and ultimately

imprisoned within social expectations, norms and customs. In my studio piece, this sketch is placed together with my sketch of feathers floating to contrast with the fact that internal freedom can not be controlled by society.

IMPRISONED within social expectations, norms and customs. In my studio piece, this sketch is placed together with my sketch of feathers floating to contrast with the fact that internal freedom can not be controlled by society.

society forces and shapes the way we perceive the world.

The original photo taken by my sister:



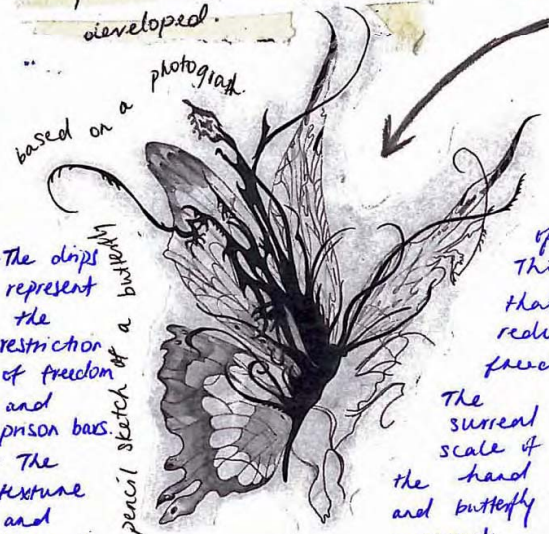
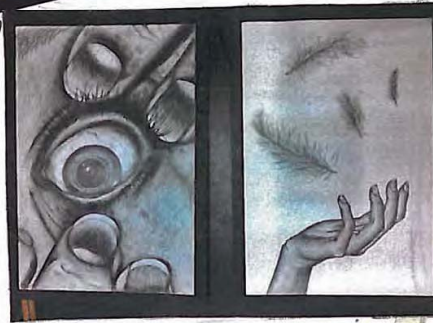
## Imprisoned by society

This is a pencil sketch of my own eye, drawn from a photo taken by my sister. The drawing is emotive and conceptual, in order for the viewer to reflect upon seeing it. The forcefulness of the hands forcing my eye open is symbolic of society forcing us to interpret actions in certain ways, e.g. cultural norms. Therefore it relates to my concept of imprisonment, because it shows how individuals are forced and ultimately imprisoned within societal expectations, norms and customs. In my developing body of work I plan to place this sketch together with my sketch of feathers floating, to contrast with the fact that internal freedom can not be controlled by society.

- Society forces and shapes the way we perceive the world
- The original photo taken by my sister.

# EXTENDING & MODIFYING

The two sketches are displayed next to each other for juxtaposition to represent freedom & imprisonment. I think the feathers in the right photo is too plain and can be developed.



based on a photograph.

- The drips represent the restriction of freedom and prison bars.

- The texture and brown in the background is suggestive of rust and a prison cell wall texture.

- The subtle newspaper symbolizes the society and expectations.

SYMBOLISM

Butterflies are typically known for symbolizing freedom. The pencil sketch on the left is based on a photograph. The manipulation in style reduces the level of realism in the butterfly. This represents the fact that social expectations reduces the amount of freedom that people have.

The surreal scale of the hand and butterfly represent that freedom (internal) is superior to social constraints, represented by the hand. The black and white contrast between freedom and imprisonment.



## Extending and modifying

The two sketches are displayed next to each other for juxtaposition to represent freedom and imprisonment. I think the feathers in the right photo are too plain and can be developed.

Pencil sketch of a butterfly based on a photograph.

Butterflies are typically known for symbolizing freedom. The pencil sketch on the left is based on a photograph. The manipulation in style reduces the level of realism in the butterfly. This represents the fact that social expectations reduces the amount of freedom that people have. The surreal scale of the hand and the butterfly represent that freedom (internal) is superior to social constraints, represented by the hand. The black and white represents contrast between freedom and imprisonment.

## Symbolism

The drips represent the restriction of freedom and prison bars. The texture and brown in the background is suggestive of rust and a prison cell wall texture. The subtle newspaper symbolizes the society and expectations.

## Sources

- <http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/butterfly-flying-towards-lavender-jody-trappe-photography.jpg> (visited website October 2013)





International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional