Jamie Steen

Street Art

60x90 cm

Acrylic on canvas

The topic that I decided to paint about was the depression branch of mental health issues. My art piece depicts a boy half submerged in deep water, representing the struggle between trying not to drown in the metaphorical ‘water’, meaning trying to keep afloat while all your problems are pulling you down. Often depression feels like drowning, thus the inspiration for my piece.

I used a dark colour palette to represent the gloomy mood of the painting, with the water being a dark green grey to set the tone for a scarier feel rather than calm water. The boy’s face was painted to have an expressionless, or somewhat calm face, to represent the mask people suffering with depression often wear to act like everything’s okay when it isn't.

Depicting the water was really difficult for me, I found it rather difficult to show that he was floating in water. But I ended up being really happy with the shirt and skin tone of his face.

Some street artists I took inspiration from were Banksy and C215. Banksy is known to be the most famous street artist in the world, yet remains completely anonymous. He or she typically depicts startling or topical pieces about the world’s problems. C215 is a French artist known for his portraits and emotions captured in faces.