

Cannot Speak

By Emma Ware

This artwork depicts Grace Tame. When Grace was 15, she was regularly sexually assaulted by one of her teachers. She was not allowed to speak about her experience because of a law in Tasmania that prevented survivors of these kind of crimes from identifying themselves. This artwork shows the struggle she had to go through to finally speak out and eventually get this law overturned.

Grace is the brightest and most saturated part of the piece, showing how she can now speak out about what happened to her. Grace having more saturated colours also draws emphasis to her. I also choose to make her clothes black and white to look similar to the background to show that her past is still a part of her.

When creating Grace, I used watercolour and coloured pencil for a softer look which is contrasted with the words and the harsh lines of the graphite pencil in the background. This also created a variety in the texture within the piece. The writing in the background shows Grace's journey with being able to speak out about what happened to her.

On the left side of the artwork, the background text talks about when she could not speak. This is shown through the graphite figure that is getting affected by these words. The text on the right side of the artwork talks about when Grace could finally speak out.

By making Grace happy and looking towards the smaller form in the background I allow the artwork to show victims of similar crimes that it is okay to speak out.

I also wanted to show within this artwork that what happened to her is only part of her. I did this through drawing in semi-realism as a way to indicate that she is in the spotlight but still not many people actually know who she is, only what happened to her.