

Melinda Earle

“An Elegy to Senseless Violence”

Artist Statement

*An Elegy to Senseless Violence* – is the poetic manifestation of the process of grief, of repression and exclusion, the memoir to our contemporary society. The body of work uses a burial context to act as a motif for the repression and densification to tragedy, to social or political unrest, to the decline of society. Charcoals are used to act as symbols for the ashes of cementation, with the charcoals fingerpainted and smudged onto pieces of found paper, where the technique of fingerpainting is chosen to act as a form of personal connection – the found papers newspaper cutouts of articles of social or political unrest, and the textures and details of the subject defined through cutting back with a kneaded eraser. The charcoals are then glued onto geometric bamboo offcuts with the subject image being of multiple different realistic funeral flowers, whereby the artwork uses the language of flowers to convey feelings of grief, loss, and lamentation to the audience. The details and state of the subject are blurred by using the charcoal, of which acts as a symbol for the repression and densification to tragedy. Influences from Kentridge’s found paper & charcoal artmaking practice acted as the inspiration towards the structural frame for my body of work, while Cooke’s use of hyperrealism through cutting back charcoal with erasers to add verisimilitude were techniques I used in order to achieve authenticity, furthermore Ritcher’s stylistic symbols of blurring for lost memory and monochromatic colours with connotations of past, grief and loss.