

This artwork was created for a school Visual Arts assignment. The task was to depict a futuristic urban utopia or dystopia, using any drawing medium. I decided to focus on the idea of a dystopia, and was highly inspired by research I did into the Kowloon Walled City, an intensely crowded megacity that existed during the 20th century. Although the city was rampant with crime and had incredibly poor living conditions, there was a strong sense of community within its maze-like alleyways. I was especially inspired by one photo I found of residents sitting on the roof of the city, enjoying the only place where natural light could reach in the whole area.

These concepts made me think about my personal experiences with the natural world. I am lucky to be able to frequently enjoy time fully surrounded by the wilderness. I strongly believe that spending time in nature regularly plays an important role in one's overall happiness, which is a philosophy that largely inspired the message behind this piece. The disconnect shown within this drawing is unfortunately already a reality for many, and one I fear will only increase as urbanisation and deforestation continues in the foreseeable future.

Credits:

A montage of three photographs (without copyright noted) were taken from the internet and collaged together in order to create my reference photo. This included photos by Piet Steeler and Khanh Nguyen.