

I'm Here Too
Monique Reiswig

The artwork in the series *I'm Here Too* can be considered separate artworks, or components of an installation. The installation is either going to be set up on a wall, or in a corner, depending on the number of the pieces, which will be approximately 12-20 artworks. Half of the separate compositions are photographs with mirrored imagery printed on canvas, with mixed media paper/printed elements. Each of these artworks include figural forms, created out of paper and paint, inspired by the colour palettes of the photographs, receding into the background. Additionally, these artworks include abstracted elements that mirror similar abstract shape and form included in one of the abstract paintings included in the installation. These artworks will be created from similar colour palettes, and will mirror content in the photograph artworks.

Much contemporary artwork concerning mental health depicts the concept literally, either as a manifested monster, or the experiencer in agony. I prefer to connect my experiences of living with a mental health condition as connected to my memories, through the landscapes that I have a strong attachment to. Artwork that considers the concept of 'sense of place' simultaneously addresses the memories and experiences of the photographer, while infusing biographical emotive connections, which can revitalise a familiar visual construct, like landscape photography, to have new meaning within art academic canon.

The installation as a whole is addressing the the experiences of mental health issues as non visible experiences, and giving the viewer a sense of the experience of an individual with mental health issues. The installation will consist of the artworks previously described displayed as a cluster on a wall, with some space in between each to leave room for continuing both abstract and representational painted elements onto the gallery wall, extending the visual

elements from canvas. Each artwork will either be physically connected with chain/rope, or connected through projections to a central mirror silhouette. The silhouette will be created out of a mirror of reflective material to allow the viewer to place themselves in the experiential center of the installation.

There is repeated tree imagery in the reflection photography, and a lack of horizon. This is meant to mimic how someone with mental health issues can feel as though there can sometimes be no reference point for navigation through their experience. The trees are included to be a marker for orientation for the artwork: that eventually an individual can find their way through these experiences. In the artworks there is a repetition or a swirl, or spiral pattern, which is an abstracted element that I have used in previous artworks to specifically reference the thought spirals that can be had when experiencing Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, or anxiety, as experienced by the artist.