

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Jessica
Maher

Title

Social Seclusion:
A Moment in History

Expressive Form

Drawing

Through my work, I wanted to demonstrate how external crises erode people's sense of place and belonging. By subtly referencing Käthe Kollwitz's *The Prisoners* and Honoré Daumier's *The Third-Class Carriage*, I aimed to underline the persistence of human suffering – how it shifts in form but never fully disappears, constantly resurfacing in different ways throughout history.

The figures are hunched and contorted; their forms worn by the emotional and psychological strain wrought by war, poverty and a worldwide pandemic. The crowded nature of the composition highlights the collective suffering, while the ghostly, faded forms indicate a loss of identity and a sense of isolation. The works end in rips and holes, symbolising a world in a state of decay and disarray, capturing the internal struggle of navigating global dilemmas. Though the crisis may change, the toll it takes on humanity remains constant, leaving behind a sense of disconnection and loss in our collective consciousness.