

YEAR 12 VISUAL ART
BODY OF WORK

Artist Statement

NAME

Riley Clarke

TITLE

Anthropocene

MATERIALS

Graphite drawing

In recent years humanity's negative impact on the environment has become clearer to me than ever. With topics such as air, land and ocean pollution, mining, forest degradation, oil drilling, overfishing, dying reefs, landfill and climate caused fires always making front page news. I believe we have become this ruthless with our resource extraction of the environment due to our exponential increase in technology usage, making us less immediately dependent on nature and thus creating a disconnection between humanity and the Earth. The title of my work, Anthropocene represents an unofficial unit of geological time that signifies the end of the Holocene epoch (a period of climate stability) due to the negative impacts of humanity on the Earth and articulates what I wanted to demonstrate through my work. I wanted to explore the degradation of our connection through drawing, as nature has always been an important part of my life growing up. I used blending and shading techniques to create detail in the faces of my Nan and Great Uncle and bring the ocean and garden to life, features that signify their personal connections to nature.

By drawing the older generation of my family in graphite pencil and depicting their connection to nature, I aim to highlight how humanity's conjunction with nature is ultimately aging. Allowing the audience to consider how their own connection may be fading and thus causing a lack of empathy for our Earth, adding to the attitudes that are supporting the continuation of the destruction of nature. I aim to make the audience reevaluate the footprint and attitude they leave on this Earth for the next generation to inherit and encourage them to change their relationship and actions with nature for the benefit of the future world.