

YEAR 12 VISUAL ARTS

BODY OF WORK

Artist Statement

NAME

Azura
Byrnes

TITLE

I'm Good

EXPRESSIVE FORM

Painting x2

"I'm Good" is an embodiment of my mental health challenges and life experiences from my childhood. I purposefully chose to showcase the harsh reality of mental struggle to aid in a more empathetic understanding towards a variety of mental issues, and how these can impact people like me. The title is ironic of the common experience of being asked "How are you?" and having to reply, "I'm Good", masking our true feelings for the sake of others. I've utilised a range of mediums including watercolour on paper and ink on wood.

Each artwork signifies a unique meaning for me, where the linear structure and perspective of my watercolour "Reality", are juxtaposed against the expressive techniques exhibited in my ink and paint mixed medium piece, entitled "Dreams". This contrast embodies the unpredictable nature of mental illness and the different forms it can take. Specifically, the border of "Reality" is faded, and the walls are warped by linear perspective, reflecting the passing of time and the dissolution of memory. Additionally, I've utilised masking fluid to replicate an illusion of old soap around the glass of the shower wall, symbolising the bathroom's lack of cleanliness impeding the mind's clarity. My final artwork "Dreams" incorporates my main artistic style, depicting vivid nightmares utilising wooden creatures that provide a 3-dimensional element to the work. I've layered these creatures to create depth, representing fear embedded in the deep subconscious.