



# *Post-Party Blues*

Group 5-06

Jasper Soon (10) |4A2 | 2019  
Liang Chongxi (14) |4A2 | 2019

Mentored by:  
Ms Denise Chung

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# 1. Introduction

## a. Objective

To portray the theme of depression and loneliness through paintings (exploration of the use of blurring in painting and the fusion of pop art and photorealism)

## b. Focus and Significance

This project taps into one of the group member's personal experiences with depression convey his story through emotions and color. This shifts the focus away from the original storyline to the strong emotions captivated within the paintings.

## c. Main Inspiration

One of the group members, Jasper, went through a point in time whereby everything seemed against him, when everything was bleak and dark. 4 months later, he was diagnosed with clinical depression. He was at the lowest point of his life, and it never once gave him a single moment of respite. This story is the main inspiration and motivation for the project.

## d. Target Audience

The group's target audience is the general public that is unaware of the dire consequences of the onset of depression, with hopes that there is a greater awareness of the effects and signs of depression

## 2. Literature Review/Theoretical Framework

### a. Artist References

#### i. Gerhard Richter

Gerhard Richter utilises blurring in his paintings to highlight the uneasiness and uncertainty behind the feelings and story behind each of his paintings. Words from the man himself, "I blur things to make everything equally important and equally unimportant. I blur things so that they **do not look artistic or craftsmanlike but technological, smooth and perfect**. I blur things to make all the parts a closer fit. Perhaps I also blur out the excess of unimportant information." (Thames & Hudson, London, 2009, p. 33). The blurring technique employed in Gerhard Richter's painting is the focal point in the project, with intentions to blur the emotions as well as the feelings behind each individual painting.



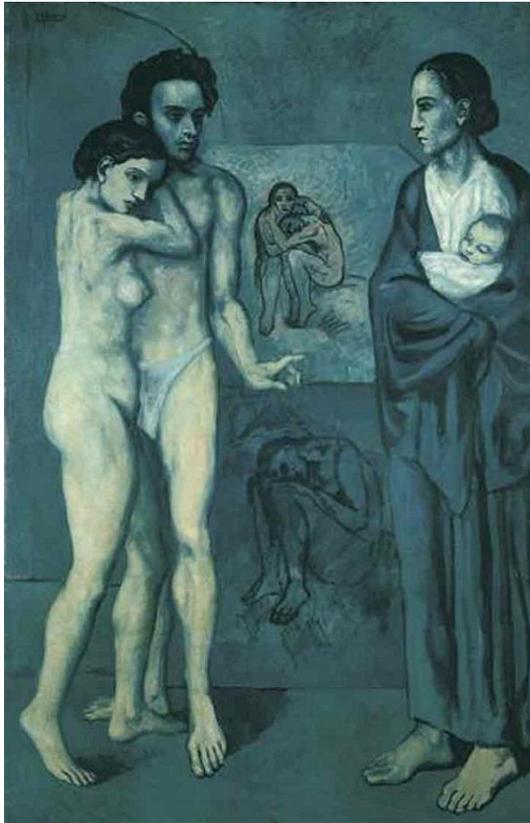
*Richter, Gerhard. (1968). Familie Rahnau [Oil on canvas].*



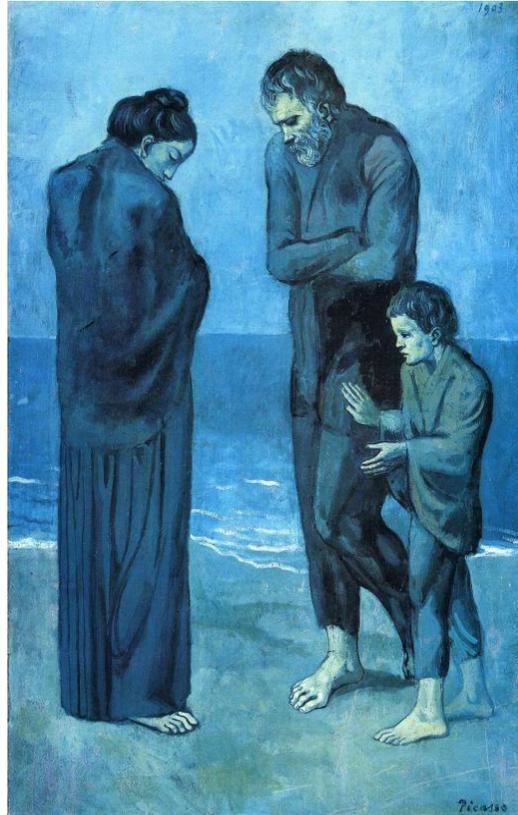
*Richter, Gerhard. (1964). Familie Schmidt [Oil on canvas]*

## ii. Pablo Picasso's Blue Period

Pablo Picasso's iconic Blue Period were **solemn and dark**. He made use of a nearly monochromatic palette of blues and blue greens to convey the somber scenes of misery and misfortune. The monochromatic use of blue was commonly used in symbolist paintings in Spain and France, where it was often affiliated with the emotions of **melancholy and despair**, suggesting that Picasso drew inspiration for The Blue Period from his time spent in Spain observing these symbolist works. Saddened by the suicide of his close friend, Picasso started painting in shades of blue and blue-green, which is later known as the Blue Period, establishing the link between blue and sadness.



Picasso, Pable. (1903). *La Vie*.



Picasso, Pable. (1903). *The Tragedy*

## iii. Pop Art

Pop art is a style of art based on simple, bold images of everyday items, such as soup cans, painted in bright colors. The Pop art movement aimed to **blur the boundaries between "high" art and "low" culture**. Andy Warhol made use of Pop Art to critique the materialism that is prevalent in society, and the group used this idea to link materialism to cover up the depression that the subjects of the paintings are going through.



Warhol, Andy. (1962). *Big Campbell's Soup Can 19c (Beef Noodle)*



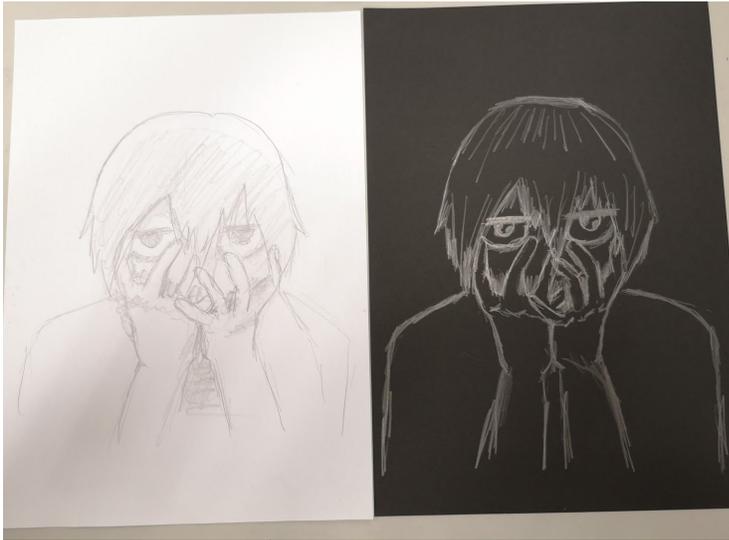
Warhol, Andy. (1987). *Beethoven*

# Documentation of Process

## a. Exploration of Ideas

### i. Sketches

The group was experimenting with **different positions and settings** to complement the theme of depression within the story. Below are the **initial sketches** of different ideas that were thought of before



*Initial Sketches of Different Ideas*

## b. Experimentation of Ideas

### i. Blurring Technique

The group carried out experiments of this painting technique using many different mediums such as **digital painting, pencil, acrylic and oil**. The method involved smudging a completed oil portrait that has yet to dry, using a brush in a **single direction**, keeping the strokes even and uniform.



Image 2

Image 2 - Blur attempt using **pencil** on paper

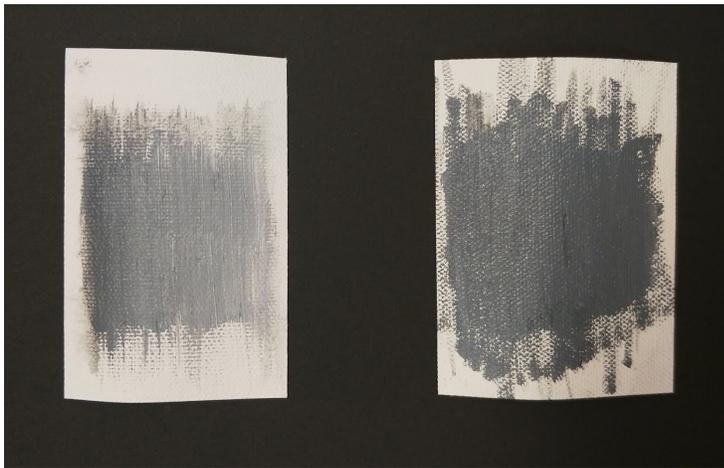


Image 3

Image 3 - Blur attempt using **acrylic**



Image 4



Image 5



*Image 6*

*Images 4, 5 & 6 - Blur attempts using oil*

## ii. Setting



The setting was decided to be the interior of an MRT. The group wanted to present the idea of a long journey, that the whole process and suffering of depression is a **prolonged and exhausting** one.

## iii. Choice of Colours

The background utilises the **monochromatic** color scheme of blue and blu-greens from Poble Picasso's blue period, affiliating the painting with feelings of melancholy and despair. The background would be made flat and mundane to present not the presence of sadness or anger, but rather the absence of any visible emotion.

As for the subject, it will be in shades of black, gray and white. This is highly contrasting to the surroundings and the clothing, to allow the subject to give off an extremely static feeling to further convey the **emotions of emptiness** within the journey.

## c. Final Work

### i. Composition

The group settled on using a triptych to portray a story that would **flow and look unified**, but at the same time be able to tell a different portion of the story using each individual canvas. Doing so allowed a continuous story-telling exuding the same vibe, but each having its own unique story and emotion to convey.

## ii. Posture of the subjects

Many different postures before, in an attempt to bring out the emotions, but at the same time not being too rigid and obvious in the process. Below are the few finalised postures of the subjects.



Image 7

Image 7 - First is a very awkward and upright sitting position that just seems too unnatural. The group is attempting to convey a **sense of fakeness and the facade** that the subject is attempting to put forth in order to hide his true emotions.



Image 8

Image 8 - Second is a **raging pose** whereby the subject is seen to have let loose of the uncontrollable rage and frustration that he was holding in before. This is evident of the emotions lashing out at everything around him.



Image 9

Image 9 - The last painting depicts the subject **leaving** the setting of the MRT, in a position that can be interpreted differently by different groups of individuals. It can be viewed as hope to those who have never experienced depression up close and personal, or it could be viewed as **the end of everything** by those that have personally walked through the whole process.

### iii. Choice of Clothings

The subject outfits were **carefully decided to contrast** with the blue tone background. Also, making reference to popular icon in the style of pop art.



Image 10

Image 10 - The first piece of clothing is the Ronald McDonald costume, which is recognisable by a wide range of audiences, introducing a sense of familiarity and reliability with the audiences. Such over-exaggeration of the clothing is evident and transparent that the subject is attempting to hide his emotions with his **own physical appearances.**



*Image 11*

Image 11 - The clothing for the second painting would be red, suggesting the rage and frustration being unleashed from within.



*Image 12*

Image 12 - The final painting utilises colors from the logo of the Instagram app, to indicate the subject's exit from the journey and reintegration into a social life.

#### iv. Choice of facial expressions

The facial expressions are the main sell and focal point of the project, with the inspiration taken heavily from Gerhard Richter's blur paintings.



*Image 13*



*Image 14*

Image 10 & 11 - The first blur painting would be an awkward and uneasy smile plastered onto the subject. It is extremely evident from a first glance that such a smile is **fake and obviously forced**, which further enforces the notion that the subject is attempting to put up a facade, not showing his true emotions



Image 15

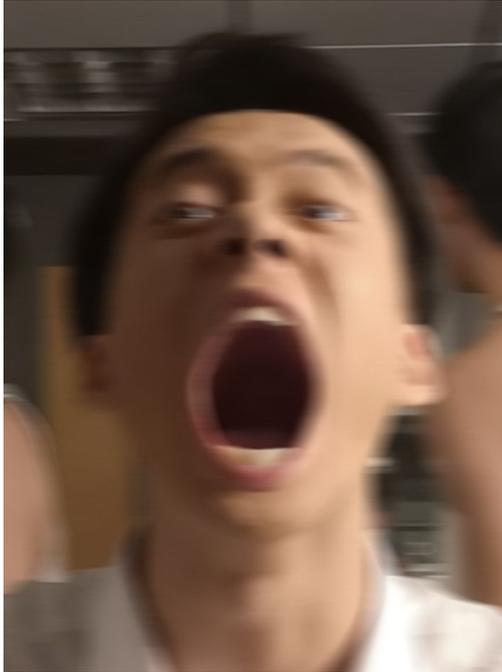


Image 16

Image 12 & 13 - The second blur painting is the subject screaming into the air, with obvious signs of rage, frustration and desperation. This is the point whereby the facade fades away, and his true emotions rise.



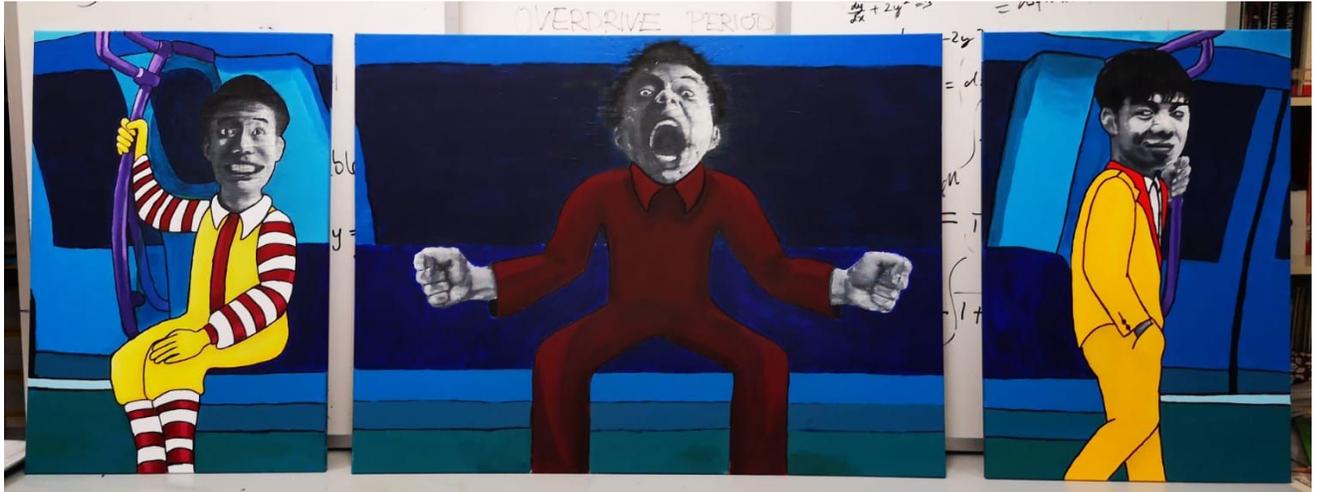
Image 17



Image 18

Image 14 & 15 - The final blur painting is devoid of any obvious emotions, not giving the slightest hint of anything. This presents many possibilities as to what the subject is planning to do, or what he is feeling at that current point in time, which concludes the story, leaving on the note or uncertainty about the future.

## v. Final Painting



## Reflections

### i. Individual reflection

- Jasper Soon Wei Xiang 4A210

This project really means a lot to me, this story is one that I've held within me for so long, and having that canvas to be able to express the emotions and feelings during those days was really therapeutic. It reminded me of what happened, and rather than just letting everything in the past be dumped in the past, it gave me an opportunity to confront it head on, to actually come to terms with the demons of my past. To embark on such a journey has really helped me grow, not just in terms of the arts, but as a person, and to be able to express those emotions onto a canvas, it gave me a kick, and taught me to continue walking forward with my head held high. This project pulled me out of a sandpit, and set me on a rock, and made me feel secure

- Liang Chongxi 4A214

Frankly, painting is not favourite medium of art but I feel that it is the foundation of any creative designing or even storytelling. From a blank canvas to a beautifully crafted art piece, it requires more than just the mastery of brushwork, composition, choice of colour and style are also essential in the creating process. Famous artist Pablo Picasso once said, "Good artists copy, great artists steal." Personal, i believe that there is nothing new under the sun. We need to study and get inspired by other artists and art style to improve and create our very own style. After this project, I have truly understood the struggles within thee journey, and really opened my eyes to a whole new world, one that was once completely inconspicuous and hidden.

## ii. Conclusion

This project has really allowed us to portray our groupmate's own personal story that is not known by many. Not only did the canvas allow us to give life to his story, but it also served as a lesson to his past, and a guide to our future. This project generates a platform for us to share the feelings and pain that anyone that goes through depression will go through, and hopefully clears up the misconceptions or stereotypes that depression is just a phase. Not only did we improve our mastery of the arts, but it gave us an opportunity to be able to tell a story that not many people would have bothered to know. Through the expression of the story on a canvas, the group hopes to raise awareness on an often avoided topic, due to its sensitive nature.

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