

I chose to work with portraits of my family for this assignment. The idea was to experiment, play around and manipulate these portraits to show relationships between family members. Therefore, I chose five portraits of my sisters and my girl cousins from my family album. These images were not taken at the same time but are my selected images from previous family outings and some shots were taken at home.

Since this is my first time learning about printmaking it was a bit tough for me to get started, especially since we worked from home due to covid. I did some research on mono printing artist and couldn't find artists that worked with trace mono printing, but I came across an artist whose work I found interest in. Her name is Elizabeth Catlett who was an African- American artist, her prints using negative and positive space to create figure really had me thinking of how I might use her aesthetic with my work. But unfortunately, I need a press to be able to do similar art pieces. I watched quite a few YouTube videos of trace mono printing and found an artwork that was kind of familiar to my visual theme. Stewart Kelly, Face to Face - All Ink and Machine Embroidery on Paper.

While researching, I eventually got a plan and started printing.

Due to lack of materials I chose to work with trace mono printing, I feel like the process is simple but yet quite problematic and also mysterious in a way. I also wanted to explore with the method of repetition throughout my work. First, I used Indian ink and black acrylic paint, but it wasn't doing the job. And so, I was suggested to use charcoal and the prints came out quite good. I continued overlapping the images on to each other. I really like how one traced image turns in to these messy scribbles on the piece of paper, where you can hardly recognize the portrait.

Preparing to screen print, my dad has a screen-printing business at home therefore I used my dad's materials.

In order to screen print here at home I must print out my art piece on to a transparency paper for me to burn it on to the screen. I wanted to use what I have drawn on to the paper, but it wasn't dark enough for it to be able to burn. I struggled a little trying to get my traced prints on to the computer and so I used photoshop to draw on my traced prints.

Preparing to screen print, first I had to put emulsion on to the screen and leave it to dry overnight. When it's all dried up it will be ready to burn under a UV light. When it was done, I quickly rinsed it off with water to wash off bits of emulsion that weren't burnt and then leave out in the sun to dry. When it dried up, I started doing my test prints on to the cloths that we weren't using any more. I used water based black paint and I printed my art pieces on to a white cloth. The prints came out neat and I loved the way it sits on the plain white material.

Repetitively tracing these portraits gave me the impression of relationships between families. There were parts on a print where overlapping went well with each other and there are some parts that were just messy. And I feel like this show how family are sometimes. We get along with each other and there are times where we don't get along.

That is my interpretation of my work but you can interpret however you like.