

## **Lucy**

'Preserved'

Price: Open to offers

Batik on calico using paraffin wax and dyes.

I have worked with textiles in the past and it seemed the perfect way to accentuate the fluidity of the natural burial site against the rigidity of the stone headstones in the cemetery.

This piece is inspired by the way the deceased are memorialised by their family after the wishes of the deceased. After visiting both sites, the cemetery seemed to me like a way for the families to create a shrine to the deceased to try to capture their essence. I felt that the cemetery was in danger of becoming less about laying the deceased to rest, but more about what headstone could be afforded. The natural burial site seemed like a place to reflect on memories of the deceased and respectfully celebrated and illustrated the beauty in life, rather than just the grief in death.

## **Jo**

'Worry is Just Wasted Imagination'

Price: Open to offers

Molotow Pens on Chipboard.

The drawing illustrates all the thoughts that swim through my mind to distract me from the evil and bad in the world that I try to ignore; death, media, poverty, selfishness etc. But instead of masking over, and ignoring the bad in the world we have to face up to it and come to terms with it in order to be truly happy. Because once we have come to terms with the fact that we won't be on this earth forever then that is the time when we will start making the most out of every day of our time here.

## **Dougie**

'Ornaments – Tasteless or Charming?'

Price: Open to offers

Mud, flowers, leaves and ornaments on canvas. Photographic laser prints.

We first visited a traditional cemetery. It looked as I would have imagined with head stones lined in a structured and organised fashion, whereas the natural burial site in comparison was not structured, and the people were not buried in rows.

The main experience that I took away from the visits was the difference in the ornaments in the cemetery as opposed to the lack of decoration at the natural burial site. Everywhere I looked in the cemetery I would see a tiny figure of Jesus Christ or watch a helium balloon sway in the wind, yet looking at the natural burial site was like looking at a forest full of trees and natural surroundings. If I was not made aware that it was a natural burial site, I would not have noticed. At the natural burial site relatives and friends can only place certain items on the grave so long as it's natural.

I feel that the ornaments and mementos left at the cemetery are a way of celebrating the life of the deceased and show that people care; however after visiting the natural burial site my work begins to question if some of the ornaments that are placed there seem tasteless and make the place look tacky, or whether natural burial sites are too strict with their policies of not having objects placed on site.

## **David**

'Alive'

Price: £150 ONO. Scarf and costume jewellery not included.

Branch of local tree and artist grandmothers set of drawers, scarf and costume jewellery.

My piece represents growth and life; the legacy people leave behind once they pass away, and how they are always alive for as long as we remember them. The drawers with scarf and knickknacks represent a solid foundation that we build our personalities on. The tree shows how we evolve from these foundations into our own identity, each branch highlighting a different aspect of our personality. The photographs represent events that everyone could experience. I've used natural images throughout to add meaning to the piece and reflect life's events in a natural setting to keep the theme of growth and to tie each component into the final piece. Alive is my view on how everyone grows naturally and that their memory lives on in those they leave behind.

## **Sarah**

'Renewal'

Price: Open to offers

Charcoal drawing on paper

My drawing represents the different stages we go through surrounding natural burial; life, funeral and burial and finally the bones that are left behind to show we were here. I set my drawing in a wooded natural landscape to reinforce the feeling of how we are all connected to the earth and nature's process of life, death and renewal. Just as natural burial is raw and untainted. I chose to draw the figure of the woman without clothes as a way of grounding and connecting her to the earth she is sat on. She has her back turned to show that she could be anyone and the process of life she is facing is the same for everyone.

## **Sam L**

'Second Chance'

Price: £700

Pen and ink on paper

I think natural burial is a lovely idea, the thought of being buried and planting trees, for me, is a symbol of the beauty of life. So I decided for my piece I would show the coffin at the base of a tree, the roots wrapped around the coffin and the tree blooming giving life to nature and animals. Like giving the passed a second chance at life, being able to help nature flourish. This shows the circle of life; we get to live long amazing lives then when we pass, we continue to grow and live on not only in our loved ones memories, but in nature. When I was visiting the burial sites, the sounds of birds, seeing creatures scurry around and seeing the trees slowly growing was mesmerizing and it's that beauty that I wanted to capture and portray in my own work.

## **Group piece**

'Lanterns (Wk5)'

This was an exercise with the group to develop team work. The group of 10 were divided up and asked to make 3D lanterns based on symbols and images that they had seen at both the natural burial site and at the cemetery.

## **Group piece**

'Models and discussion (Wk3)'

This was an exercise in week 3 to open up dialogue after the site visits and promote discussion. Each person was asked to model a shape that represented something that had stood out for them during their visit to the cemetery and the natural burial site and were asked to explain their work.

## **Colin**

'Reflection'

Price: Open to offers

Mixed wood and willow

The whole idea behind my piece is the fact that at both sites we visited there were hundreds of commercial looking benches. However they looked out of places. At Memorial Woodlands, a cemetery based on natural burial, the whole site looked like a small wood. This was good but the benches stood out and just didn't look the part. So it gave me the idea to make a bench out of natural looking materials that would suit the site a lot more. The beds have been incorporated into the bench so that you can plant flowers in that are suitable. The name of the piece is Reflection, this is because people will be sat on it in a chosen location and can think about their loved ones.

## **Charlotte**

'The Poem and the Box'

Price: £50 for both, £20 poem and £30 box

Paper, tea and ink. Mixed wood and ornaments.

The 'Poem and the Box' represents the family members who have died in the last 15 years. I wrote the poem when I was in year 8 and is about my dad who passed away when I was younger when he was out fishing. The box is where you can place items to do with your loved ones and their ashes after you have had them cremated. I decided to do a box (with my granddads items in) and a poem as it has huge sentimental meaning for me as my granddad passed away as well as my dad. The tea staining reminded me of what we may do as a school activity in year 8 when the poem was written, the box holds items from family members that have passed away.

## **Sam G**

'Silent shadow'

Each framed piece £95 or £350 for all 4 (unframed £50 each)

Each paper cut £60 (£30 for the smaller ones)

Post cards £3 each

Photographs and paper cuts.

I didn't have a preconceived notion about what I wanted to create, only knowing that I wanted to explore paper cuts and see where that would take me in the direction of death and natural burials. Through using paper and placing it outside, my work reflects how matter regenerates and renews itself in other forms. Paper is a natural material that can biodegrade over time. By taking my images outside this is emphasised as it blends back in with nature.

I tried to capture the power of death with the imagery in the photographs. The two dimensional paper represents our narrow understanding of what happens once we die. The paper cuts are delicate like life, while the silhouettes they create reflect the shadows that always follow you around. The contrast of the crisp foreground and unfocused background also mirrors life and death.

## **Catherine**

Animation.

Charcoal, paper, film.

After visiting a natural burial site and a cemetery I saw little difference between the two, both are places for storing a deceased being and somewhere for the living to visit. The natural burial site is 'natural' because of its rules; nothing manmade is to be left there, the body is not preserved in any way and is buried in a shallow grave, speeding up the decomposition. This is a contrast to a traditional cemetery with headstones made for the deceased and the body concealed in a coffin deep in the ground. Often at cemeteries you see many things left by loved ones such as flowers, letters or toys; at natural burial sites this is not allowed. For this reason, I feel cemeteries are a more 'natural' route for people to choose, we cannot help leaving traces behind us as we live our lives, why in death would we wish to erase our memories so quickly. At the natural burial site some had ignored the rules and left their mark anyway.

This animation aimed to show the similarities between the two. It was planned to show the process of both burials in the way I see it. Due to the unexpected death of my granny during this course, I was unable to finish the animation in time, please see sketchbook for an idea of what was to come.

I intend to continue this animation in the near future. For now please see the charcoal drawing that was filmed for the stop-motion, and a portrait of my granny.

**Catherine**

'Live piece'

Charcoal on paper.

Artist will be continuing this within the gallery on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Price upon request

**Catherine**

'Maire Walsh'

Pencil on Paper.

A portrait of my granny drawn from the last photo my uncle took of her.

Not for sale. Commissions on request.