

Explanation of my multi-media environmental mural:

The following sums up what I intended to express. Though each viewer may & should create their own interpretation of my mural and the issues and their meaning.

My mural flows from right to left beginning with the mirror where the viewer should be able to see themselves, this is intended to provoke a more personal connection with my mural. The sun and moon, yin and yang, night and day, all explore the concept of balance, the yin and yang further display the ideal of the good and the bad within our world. The white dove is a representation of peace and purity, which are both sadly lacking amongst society. The globe of the world is shaded in with various spices that represent the different continents and create an earthy texture, the clock symbolises time and its transient nature. The use of match sticks further convey how time is running out and many animals & natural resources are becoming scarce. The girl/figure is holding the world in her hands and when the viewer looks into the mirror it emphasizes the ideal that we all have power to change the world and that the viewer themselves hold the earth in their hands. The lonesome bee conveys the issue that bees are beginning to die out, bees are also known for their hard working and loyal nature which are values important amongst society.

The coral reef is bright, colourful and lively and as the sand changes to rubbish the coral is dying, this is in place to provoke sympathy for our dying coral reef and the issue of coral bleaching. The whale embodies the issue of whale poaching and their path to extinction, I intertwined some recycled fish net from the beach in the dolphin's tail in order to expose the threat fish nets are posing to dolphins whereby many have died in such situations. The jelly fish is made from a plastic bag is meant to expose the truth/ result of littering, whereby hundreds of thousands of sea turtles die from ocean pollution and in many cases they believe plastic bags are jelly fish and die from plastic consumption.

Every 5 minutes an elephant is brutally slaughtered for their tusks and I believe many people aren't even aware to what extent this takes place and so the elephant in my mural with its missing tusk and blood serves as a reminder of this. Butterflies embody transcendence and spiritual/personal growth, from their transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, I included the butterflies for

this reason and the butterfly wing in the elephants ears is a symbol that we too can transform and help the elephants, the size of the butterflies is also decreasing to show the decline in their numbers and that they too are beginning to become less. The trees represent nature itself and how we must look after it, and the significance of the cherry blossoms in Japanese culture represent the fragility and beauty of life.

The two main buildings in the cityscape symbolise the tragedy of nine eleven and the Eiffel tower serve to remind us of the terrorist attacks not only in France but around the world. The graves and flowers symbolise the lives lost in these horrific events. The trucks are made out of recycled cans and the dark cloud coming from the main truck stand for pollution and the skull represents the death of pollution. The figures of people also have their own meaning whereby the woman is looking away and withholding her child from the indigenous people even though the two children are reaching for each other, this scene is intended to show the issues of racism that are sadly still prominent throughout today. The little hand prints are there to remind us that we all come from the same ancestor and should all be treated equally and the girl in the tiger is crying and hiding from a man with a club in his hand to portray the issue of domestic violence which is sometimes unrecognised.

The rhino is painted almost ghost like with tears turning to rain and depicted to be getting sucked into the skull to epitomize the extinction of certain subgroups of their species e.g the Western black rhinoceros are completely gone. The number of wolves and tigers are on the decline which is why I painted one of each and furthermore the wolf is also crying to express this sad issue. I painted a polar bear holding on to a small surface of ice with its baby grasping on it back to symbolise the melting ice caps and make aware that they are drastically losing their habitat and their lives. The eagle can fly higher than any other bird and so I find it conveys the ideal that we can all reach higher and become more than what we believe.