

## VISUAL ARTS

# Mackenzie Thompson

## Heavy Industries: A Monochrome Tribute

### REFLECTION STATEMENT

My Visual Arts Body of Work is an ode to heavy industries and the workers on the frontline of our civilization; the individuals who are often invisible in the shadows of company names. The six portraits are depictions of miners, fishermen, welders, construction workers and firefighters. They are all professions that I regard as responsible for enabling our society's economic growth and development. The series aims to depict strong, resilient workers who day in and day out go about their everyday work, which is often very physically demanding and unglamorous. I have used the humble, messy charcoal media to render each of the portraits with a degree of realism, and this was coupled with an expressive and dynamic background which suggests the physical nature of their work.

Much like the professions themselves, the charcoal media has provided me with an opportunity and a connection to the grit and grind of everyday work that is evident in the process of creating my body of work and within each of these professions. The precision of mark making parallels the precision required within the work of heavy industry labourers. The dynamic work environment so often found in these trades is encapsulated through the expressive movement and varied applications of smeared, splattered and drips of charcoal in the backgrounds. I have great appreciation for these workers because it's people like themselves, who aren't afraid to get dirty, who ultimately enable society's evolution.









