Fragmented

My aim was to explore the elements of recent changes in my life, set in the context of Covid-19, to try and make some sense through creative expression. Loss, moving, changing circumstances were to feature in my project entitled Fragmented.

***S E A W A R D***

**Women in Sheds.**

I started in two ways. A new creative group called Women in Sheds, to look at establishing creative practise locally and to see if this could work, it is still a work in progress.

To display work, I approached Withernsea Lighthouse, and a date was set for a summer exhibition. Two women from the group joined me. I kept the title loose, to enable our different approaches. My aim was to draw mixed media elements together to represent my journey from the recent past to the present.

The exhibition was called S E A W A R D.

My work wasn’t for sale. After the past couple of years, I wanted to start share work that was an exploration of methods, rather than producing work for sale. We received positive verbal feedback. Reception staff and the Lighthouse manager Lindsey Jones said feedback was positive and our exhibition seemed to generate good interest in exhibiting in their gallery space going forward, particularly after Covid-19. One person from the local photography club said about my work ‘I’ve never seen photography used like this alongside mixed media’. Perhaps this just endorses (again) the fact that I am more than a one medium artist and not a pure photographer, I do like to mix things up.

**Exploring different methods**

I had workshops with Linda Ingham Power, she was informative and experimental, exactly as I hoped. We looked at mixed media and using different materials. I purchased necessary materials, gouache, brushes and canvases, papers etc., I have included one of the paintings I started on one of Linda’s workshops. I brought it home and worked on it further, however I was finding that this approach, although I enjoyed it, wasn’t fulfilling me in the way I had hoped in this project. I had started a painted photograph; however, I just didn’t like it.

I took a different path, away from my idea of painting found objects and painting on to photographs to use the materials I had collected on the beaches, both here in Withernsea and on the beach at East Newton to produce 3D work in box frames. I also used some of my simple poems, alongside the mixed media work. I will explore more painting onto photographs and painting of pottery one day, but somehow it just didn’t sit right on this project.

I began to look through the boxes of letters, documents and photos from East Newton for inspiration. I placed the documents alongside the places of significance, or contrast, as a series of photographs. This is something I will continue. I knew delving into boxes would be difficult at times, the emotion sometimes prevents me from carrying on with the work to the best effect. Though it won’t stop me from continuing. It feels as important now as it did a few months ago. I’ve examined myself to see if this is just about me processing my grief, is it indulgent? Does it have value? Perhaps it is all those things.

I must present the work in a quality and focussed way, so it can be viewed easily and almost clinically so as not appear self-indulgent, to almost remove the emotion. Following along from my project with dad, there is continuity, and I would like to explore exhibiting these photographs in a bigger venue. My love for the written word is as strong as ever, I think now in fact it is equal to my love of visual art and photography, this will be featured too.

I still feel fragmented, I am not sure I have drawn these fragments together cohesively, but I have made a start. At the very least I have had one exhibition and I am working towards another. Venue to be sourced. I will look for others way to develop and add to what I have done so far. Though it may take time because of the content.