

Visual arts

“Portraits in Art”

By Sam Osborne

Hippolytus

Artist: Max Dingle

Year: 2009

Media: oil on canvas and board

Size: 29x68cm

Source: [Max dingle](#)



CRITICAL WRITING

This portrait is a portrait of the artist's chest. He used his own chest as a model for his painting of Hippolytus. The painting is in 3 pieces because it represents the part of the myth of Phaedra (a mythological Queen) where Hippolytus (her lover) is torn into shreds.

The painting gives me a feeling of loneliness and despair also of strong emotions and conflict. The spacing between the sections clearly show how Hippolytus has been torn apart both physically and mentally. The tinges of red depict Hippolytus' blood on the rocks. The globe in the top left corner reminds us of the approaching storm and the ladder effect shows the build-up to disaster. The transition from light to dark makes you think of Phaedra and Hippolytus own descent into darkness. The arrow in the bottom right hand corner tells us lessons learnt and new beginnings.

There is a lot of interesting things going on in the background keeping your eyes moving across the page. The separation distorts the chest and makes it look puzzling, it so disconnected you can't process. This is the painting that keeps on giving - every time you look at it you get a different message.

HISTORICAL WRITING

Max Dingle is my uncle who lives in Sussex Inlet. He has always wanted to be an artist since he was a little boy. When he was 16 he joined the navy. After 12 years in the navy he was accepted in the National Art School in Darlinghurst in Sydney. When he is not painting he is either working on a sculpture, gardening, volunteering at the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre where he is curator or cooking. He is an abstract artist and sculptor in steel. His home and studio is at Sussex Inlet on the NSW South Coast.

In the past Max's art has been influenced by the Greek Myths and more recently by the Spanish poet and playwright Fredrico García Lorca. Max also gets inspiration from his own extensive personal art collection, contemporary dance and the bush and garden surrounding his South Coast home. He has a large collection of paintings and sculptures.

In 2011 Max created an exhibition of paintings and sculpture depicting the Greek myth of Phaedra. The painting I have chosen was part of this series. In this series Max wished to highlight in an abstract form the strong emotions of love, hate and jealousy along with death, murder and suicide. The sharp contrasts, bold angles and geometrical shapes do this very well.

HERE ARE A COUPLE OF HIS PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES FROM THE PHAEDRA SERIES.



MAX DINGLE

