

Women & Madness: Representing Madness and Resistance through feminism, femininity and fighting Back

Artwork by female students of A History of Madness (DST500)
Presented by the School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University
International Women's Day, March 8, 2013



KATHERINE YELLAND-MITCHELL

MEDIA BS: CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS OF MADNESS

Mixed Media

You have only gotten a piece of her. This piece is in reaction to the recent media coverage of Britney Spears and the medical model framework used to describe her mental health. It is intended to scrutinize the dominant psychiatric approaches used by the media to explain her actions.



NADIA ISMAIL

*THE PORTRAIT OF A FEMALE SCHIZOPHRENIC: MAYBE THE
WORLD NEEDS A LITTLE ART THERAPY?*

Mixed media surrealist sculpture

Art therapy has now become a more positive and effective treatment of mental illness, commonly using surrealist expression to communicate. For this (surrealist) portrait, the artist became the “patient” and the “doctor” is the world. The hope is that societies at large will become more aware and have a better understanding of Schizophrenia and the history of treatment. It is therefore art therapy for the world...



DEVLYN VAN LOON

UNTITLED

Textile (dress) and conceptual drawing

Fabrics and textures mimic the layers in *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. A fitted bodice reflects the corseted style of the period, raw hems the deterioration of the narrator, extended panels the ripping of the wallpaper. The dress exists in the present as do many of the issues in the story.

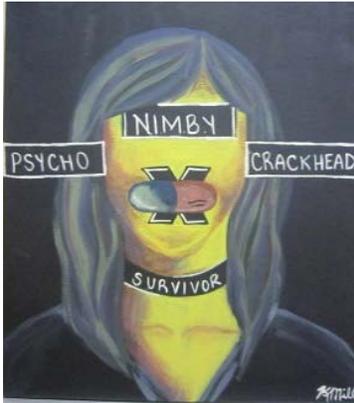


MIRANDA VANLOGERENBERG

A FASHION OF THE MIND

Textile (dress) and conceptual drawing

This piece is a theatrical costume that represents the structural and individual understandings of madness by psychiatry. The painted muslin pieces represent the social factors and structural responses to anxiety and depression, whereas the pills (buttons) represent the individual/medical responses.



KASHEEMA MILLER

THE RELEASE OF A MAD PERSON INTO THE COMMUNITY

Acrylic on canvas

The painting uses “hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil” as its starting point. It references the stigma that mad people carry. The neckband suggests a resistance to stigma.



AMANDA HICKEY

BEHIND THE WALL AT THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE TORONTO

Collage

For almost 40 years, Matilda, a patient at the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, worked every day in the hospital laundry and dining room for no pay. This image gives us a small glimpse into Matilda's life.

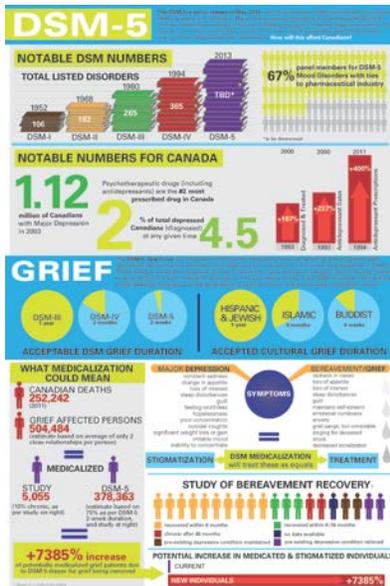


ANDREA CHAN

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

Four Watercolours

This four piece self-portrait was inspired by the short story *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.



AMBER HICKSON

DSM-5 AND MEDICALIZED GRIEF IN NUMBERS

Digital Info-graph

The DSM-5 is set to be released in May 2013 at the annual conference for the American Psychiatric Association. Some of the many changes to attract a considerable amount of commentary have included the lowering of diagnostic thresholds and the medicalization of grief. This infographic artwork explores how symptoms of grief and major depression can appear somewhat similar; however, they represent differing long-term situations and treating them the same will lead to increases in antidepressant prescription sales by blurring “distinctions between mental health and illness” (Tartakovsky).



LISA LEE

MASKITOL™

Digital image

This mock advertisement represents our over-reliance on psychiatric medications and the serious side effects and risks that medications may present.



STEPHANIE HENDERSON

COMPOS MENTIS

Ink and pencil crayon on paper

This illustration portrays a mad woman surrounded by some of the negative aspects of the mental health system. Her pyjamas remind us of the subordination institutions often mandate. The background of bloodshot eyes demonstrates the concept of the panopticon, an open-concept architecture of modern asylums developed for constant surveillance. The copy of the DSM in the subject's face symbolizes her loss of identity to her clinical diagnosis; the vest of empty pill bottles highlights the dangerous and self-destructive nature of popular psychoactive drugs.