Everyone has secrets, every of us does. Everyone loves to know other’s secrets, even saints. With the rise of the Internet, sharing information including one’s secret becomes easy and common. If somebody leaks a secret, other people will know it easily, without any foreseeable consequences. People have different attitudes towards secrets, both positive and negative, or even indifferent. When presented with a secret, a person’s reaction somehow tells us a lot about him/her. Regardless to the kinds of secrets, I like to collect as many secrets as possible. That might not be the nicest thing to do, but, that is what I enjoy most. Knowing someone’s secrets is just like learning more about that person in form of a game. Somehow, this can enhance relationships. Trying to force people expose themselves is difficult if you don’t know them well. So if a person is willing to tell you his/her secret… then it means that he/she trusts you. In my artworks, I would like to use secret to explore the connection between different people and how the psychological changes of people while listening or exposing to secrets.
Title: Faces of Monstrosity
Medium: Marker on paper
Size: 44.3 cm x 29.2 cm (9 pieces)

Title: Tell Me! Tell Me!
Medium: Ink on paper & digital printout
Size: 13.1 cm x 13.1 cm (28 pieces)

Title: I Bought This For You
Medium: Paper and digital printout
Size: 12.8 cm x 8 cm (12 pieces)

Title: Catharsis
Medium: Digital printout on tracing paper and pencil on paper
Size: 21 cm x 29.7 cm (29 pieces)
ARTWORK 1...

FACES OF MONSTROSITY...

IDEA-DEVELOPMENT

Everyone has secrets, everyone of us does.
Everyone loves to hear secrets, even saints.
With the rise of internet, sharing information including one's secret is becoming more and more easy and common.

Once someone leaks a secret, anyone can gain access to the secrets easily, without any foreseeable consequences.
People have different approaches towards secrets, both positive or negative, or even indifferent. When presented with a secret, a person's reaction somehow tells us a lot about him/her.

While many secrets, such as pregnancy (planned... or), or a surprise party, are positive... we tend to think of secrets as negative or dark things.
So secrets are often linked to a darker side.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Ever since I was small, I've always been called a great listener. People always come to me when they have problems or secrets! Secrets to tell me. Even if sometimes I don't care enough for that person, I would like to know his/her secrets.

Facing and going through so many secrets, I have myself shown many different reactions towards the secrets. So now when I am older, I tend to be more a secret reactor myself...

Of course I still like to listen to others' secrets...

My friends usually give me all kinds of secrets after I tell them my secrets... some may laugh and some may be shocked and speechless. That's why I am so interested in people's reactions towards different secrets. Especially the facial expressions, as they are the obvious and genuine reactions one can get.

The sketches that I unintentionally draw all appear to be rather mean, sassy and bratty.

The eyes of the portraits I draw usually are looking to the side...
Comments on Andy Warhol's works:

Andy's style is very simple and it created a unique era. I really like how he uses famous faces as his canvas and added on very poppy colors that were not commonly used previously. Other than that, I also really love how he used simple compositions only a fact that takes up the whole canvas, and still looks very finished and polished.

Learning from Andy Warhol:

- Composition which only contains faces can still look finished.
- Minimizing some visual elements like colors in order to bring out features to be looked at like expressions.
- Blank out the background to totally bring out the features of a face.

Inspiration 2: Yeung Hok Tak

Yeung Hok Tak is a Hong Kong cartoonist that I really like....
His style is really unique.
Instead of drawing pretty faces, he likes drawing 'UGLY' faces.
- He designs various characters with different features. The features are often really strange. Strange hair styles etc.

Style?

- Digital work
- Really odd, wrong colors
- Hard lines are used instead of sketch lines
- Usually draw full body
Exploration on Idea & Media...

At the very beginning, I wanted to draw portraits of female faces, as females are often the gender being referred to when people talk about secret listeners or secret seers. 

As I wanted to explore on the different facial expressions of people in this artwork, I decided to draw many faces (I finally drew a total of 100 faces...). I made the decision to draw a set of portraits which are all females only, mimicking Andy's style. I also went for the 'beautiful' female faces, as shown in the oversimplified manner...

Gossiping...

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EYES AND SECRETS:

There has been a saying of 'The Third Eye' or the 'All-Seeing Eye.' Also known as the Eye of Providence, the eye is a symbol showing an eye often surrounded by rays of light or a glory and usually encircled by a triskel. It is sometimes interpreted as representing the eye of God watching over mankind. The word 'all-seeing' interests me, as when we talk about secrets, we want to know all the details just like how God knows everything. Humans sometimes tend to overestimate themselves, thinking they can be God. I interpret people who want to know all the secrets in the world as people who challenge God. So I decided to add more eyes to each of the faces, as a symbol of a desire to know every secret. I also decided to go for more than 3 as typically, people with multiple eyes only have 3 eyes.

This is an image of the Eye of Providence. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.
Most of the time it took for me to finish this article was spent on... hair, hair, hair, hair...

Cellphone
- Symbol of...
- Texting
- Instant messages
- 'SNAP' and 'SEND'

Note-Pad
- Symbol of
- Record
- Writing down every detail and all the information
- The RECEIPT

The Holy Trinity

Drink
- Symbol of
- Meals
- The gossips during meals
- The 'sit-down & TALK'
These are two pieces of artwork by Hong Kong illustrator Rainbow Leung. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the images is provided.

This is an artwork by Rainbow Leung. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is the book cover of "Wo Che Village The Ups And Downs" by Rainbow Leung. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.
Mr. Bingo is a British illustrator who tends to use more black and white rather than colors in his works. His works are more on the graphic design side, rather than traditional drawings. He also draws realistic images with very minimal black and white colors with no shading.

How dare you come near me?

All of Mr. Bingo's work and even if they work, bravery scares everyone, even strangers.

Style?

- Uses mainly black and white
- Cream, pine, and detached drawings
- Oddly-placed inhuman objects are often present in his illustrations

Comments on Mr. Bingo's Works

The style of Mr. Bingo is very fine and clean, which is the style I chose to adopt in my artwork, rather than Rainbow 3, and I decided to only use black and white as the key idea I want to bring out. It does not require the use of any colors.

Also, colors might sometimes dominate our thoughts when we see things, and that will take the room for imagination away...

Sometimes I think to myself...

- All that I draw is really detailed and fine illustrations... like Mr. Bingo...
- What if I try and be care-free?...
Inspiration from Galaman

This is an artwork by Galaman. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Galaman is a local artist who is always interactive with his audience in a rather fun way. Every night he would invite his audience to give him topics for him to draw. Many of the topics might eventually become poems and playing on words.

"善行" becomes "Farm 助行"...

This is an artwork by Galaman. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Concept of Galaman's Illustrations

- Galaman is doing such illustration projects with his audience as a way of collaboration.
- Galaman is using this way to really bond with people. Also, the really creative and humorous approach of drawing the illustrations can always be a good way to get people's attention and get them to laugh.
- I also would like to make people smile and have fun reading when they see my artwork, as I want to bring out the message that secrets are not that scary. When we all open up and share our sources, it's a bright happy world.

This is an artwork by Galaman. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Style of his Illustrations

- His works are often quite uncommon.......
- and the illustrations are often a character.

>This inspired me to really go out there and move outside of my comfort zone, and think of ways to really tell the essence of the secrets that I might be collecting is an undermined but not exact way.

This is an artwork by Galaman. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.
Reflection

Comparing to the first artwork, the time limit was a bit shorter, but I am more satisfied with the outcome. In this artwork, I have finally utilized my strength, my creative mind, and my illustration skills. After squinting my eyes and holding onto a 0.5 cm pen tightly and drawing nearly really fine and detailed lines on very small pieces of paper, for an uncountable period of time, I have really tested my skill in drawing detailed things and I have also definitely trained by patience.

I am really really happy with this artwork, not only does it look nice, the outcome also came along with many positive feedbacks. When I showed the little cards to others, many engaged in guessing who the secrets could be about, laughing and saying "oh my god... I have done this too!". After this artwork, I have questioned that maybe the concept of secrets is just a bit over-dramatized sometimes, as from what I have seen after presenting this artwork, many people are laughing, no one was getting their feelings hurt.

The success in this piece of artwork was brought by nothing but...
Try and Error and
Non-stop drawing...

I have also learnt to really... LEARN AND

Get experience... through mistakes...
Artwork labels do not have, do not carry, or convey any specific messages or emotions as they are not actual artworks. However when I use this form as a means to express my secret feelings, I am impacting emotions into an emotionless form of artwork. So the text—the only element, in the designs must contain all my messages and emotions, rather than presenting them in a traditional aesthetic way.

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Style
Very minimalistic
No decorations
Basic details
No images

Inspiration 2 徐冰

- Xu Bing's works are very insightful, in terms of meaning, language, and manipulation.
- Many of his works are installations.
- Similar to my idea of playing with meanings,
  Xu, as a conceptual artist, is very successful in doing so.
- Xu Bing creates installations that constantly question the idea of communicating meaning through language, etc.
- I also want to employ meanings to meaning-less objects, while having the concept in mind that I am communicating with people without saying a thing.
  So I want to make people think, make them ask questions, even make them feel confused.

Secrets
Always involve guessing and thinking, especially about crushes. People will ask whether your crush is real or not.

- Xu Bing's works seem to be full of words all the time, and that let people imagine meaning and stories.
- Xu Bing's安装 works often cause confusion and uncertainty as people always hate the unknown.
Difficulties...

When I tried to fold the printed paper templates, because I did not apply any type of protection on the paper, the edges of the folded area became white, and the ink came off!!

This makes the whole finished product look very messy and handmade, but I wanted to make the objects look like actual merchandise.

Also, the white edges looked really bad...

Solutions...

I tried to apply layers of sticky oil onto the paper before it was folded to give protection to the ink adhered on the surface and to give the boxes the shiny surface that real packages have.

After I applied the layers of oil, in form of spray, the ink did not diffuse out and get fuzzy, which was one of the problem I was search of having. And the layer of protection successfully adhered and got rid of the possible white edges produced during the folding process.

Difficulties...

When I finished sticking the whole template in place, the wings of the designed templates were drying but really easily, even tape could not hold them in place.

And the edges where I applied sticky tape on are also becoming loose...

Solutions...

To make them stay in place...
I had to do it like the real companies...

NOT GLUE THE BOXES TOGETHER.
Relationship of ARTWORK & REFLECTION

Many people did not get the idea of me using drinks as a means to show my secrets...
This art work is actually more personal than the previous two...
The 12 people I chose are actually really secret... even if my teacher asks me, I would not tell her anything...
The drinks did not actually contain any drinks... what they contained were my secret feelings towards the 12 people...
The artwork actually explores on my

Obsession 4 Secrets...

The reason why I chose such a strange and uncommon object to show my wildest and deepest feelings is to make a contrast between that: people having secrets will appear to be very emotionless... in order to hide any clues and hints that others could get from their behaviors.
However, nobody can really hide their feelings.
Just like "林真心, Love Truly" in "我的少女時代 Our Times", she eventually had to open up in front of her school crush by handing him a popsicle...
The drinks I made were actually meant to be given to the 12 people just like how Lin gave the popsicle to her crush.
The reason why I did not make any fancy decorations on the design of the templates is because sometimes, nothing needs to be showed, nothing needs to be said.
When we hand that special someone that drink, we automatically understand mutually...
Inspiration 2...
Mr. Bingo again!!

Mr. Bingo's works always involve him saying bad things about others and criticizing others' misbehaviors. One of the projects of Mr. Bingo is making postcards and sending them to his friends or just acquaintances, but the intention of the postcards is to get them off, saying mean things about them.

These three images are Mr. Bingo's work "Hate Mail". Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the images is provided.

Idea-wise? Relationship with theme?

The last time when I used Mr. Bingo as a reference, I was interested in drawing and the visual outcome. This time, I used the idea of him drawing actually FOR the people he is going to be offended with. Many of the messages which can be seen on the postcards are really hurtful and mean things which are definitely supposed to be kept private, especially in Hong Kong... which is a place hugely influenced by the Confucianism, moral culture where we were taught to like everyone no matter how much you dislike that person...
However, this culture might not be comfortable. Negative thoughts will accumulate in our minds, and sometimes we still feel guilty for thinking about such 'horrible thoughts'. Even worse, when we actually have someone to share those thoughts with, we become good mates, as we had held the negative inside for far too long.

This is a drawing of a calculator. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is a drawing of a pencil case. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.
**WHAT STYLE?**

- one of the main aspect of this artwork is how I am going to draw my friends.
- I have tested out various ways & STYLES to draw them.
- I have yet to decide on which style of drawing I want to use, as different styles of drawing can bring very different feelings.

**REALISM?**
- & more serious
- & can show the exact face
- & can recognize right away
- Cannot show the contrast of REAL face vs. FAKE face

**CARTOON**
- & more fun
- & more playing
- Cannot show the contrast of REAL face vs. FAKE face

This boy is a friend of mine, he was an exchange student in Germany.

I used him as a testing for which style of drawing I showed use, as I have only drew him (out of all my classmates) before.

I finally decided on a realistic yet sketchy style...

> Why realistic?
- I wanted to show the 'REAL' faces of the people.
- I am going to draw...
- even though they are 'REAL', they cannot show the 'REAL' person behind the face...

**REAL FACE? REAL SELF?**
Reflection!

To be honest, this artwork was done in a hurry, but it is because I really felt strongly about the idea for the artwork so I had no difficulties in finishing it in such a short time.

Before this artwork, I was a really negative person. Just like any other people, I have different feelings towards different people. There are of course people that I dislike, and sometimes I don't know how to release some of the negative spirit and emotion in my mind, other than talking to my friends.

Catharsis - an act of cleaning and making one self felt.

The process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions. The process is definitely achieved...

I had nearly 100% of all my accumulated negative feelings.

Those negative emotions were previously secrets, but now, they secrets are me.

I am really satisfied that when I started making artworks, I started with secrets and at last, I am letting go of my secrets.