

COCO BOSHARD

Year 12

Disconnect

Prisma colour on paper

In reimagining Grant Wood's iconic 'American Gothic' against the backdrop of our rapidly evolving technological landscape, I capture the profound shifts that have reshaped our world as a result of technology. Just as the stern figures in the original painting were representative of people who were out of step with the modernising world, my parody addresses the other extreme, the risk of being all consumed by the digital age and the impact this has on the way in which we interact with one another.

Using Prisma colour pencils, I have captured the transformation of the conservative, hard-to-read custodians of a rural homestead into a couple who are representative of the blurring of boundaries between online and offline relationships. Whilst standing close to one another, they are still distinctly apart. Are our relationships as authentic as they used to be? The once-familiar pitchfork has evolved into a metaphorical tool, a plug, which has been pulled to symbolise the need to disconnect from the constant stream of distractions and to prioritise real-life interactions and be fully present. The house that identifies with Grant Wood's original piece, now engulfed in flames, is representative of the destructive nature of our current addiction to technology and the rapid spread of the problem.

Just as Grant Wood's original masterpiece stirred contemplation on the American identity, this artwork challenges us to question our dependence on technology and the profound impact this has on our lives and relationships.