

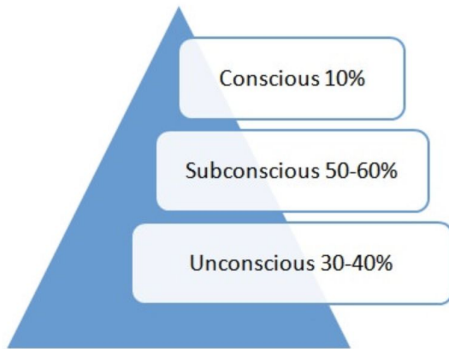
link: <https://youtu.be/mEOubZDvtww>

<Heal me>

50 words artist's statement/synopsis:

This is an artwork about people who suffered from Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) commit suicide. It portrays the last dream before the protagonist died. In the dream, he could kill himself to make his feelings comfort. And at last, he could never come back to reality.

From dreamwork to dream narratives



According to Freud's psychoanalytical theory, human consciousness is like an iceberg model, which was divided by conscious, subconscious, and unconscious. Conscious leads our daily lives, it helps us focus and define what is not real. Subconscious stores information that needs to be recalled quickly, including behaviors, and our feelings while unconscious buried our

trauma, all our memories, and experiences, where our dream mainly comes from.

Owing to socialization, people tend to stay their feelings in mind. Therefore, our unconsciousness only appears when our conscious defenses loosened, which is sleep. Therefore, in my artwork, I tried to repress the feelings that constrained by the social norms of people with mental illness.



When we sleep, we make dreams. Dream is the result of unconsciousness. In the dream, we create and perceive our world simultaneously. When we dream, reciprocal causation is made. There are new interpretations consciously created by the mind, and we experience the result of that new interpretation. Also, the subconscious is driven by emotion. So, in my artwork, some smoke has been added so as to make the protagonist perceive the smoke, which made by charcoal burning and creates an illusion of smoking cigarettes, which is his favorite behavior. When time goes by, the protagonist perceives and creates a more vigorous emotion of killing himself, and it finally goes like a balloon, boomed in the air, and nothing left.

According to Freud, our unconscious will disguise our true feelings when it is constructing a dream so as to avoid the censor from our conscious mind.

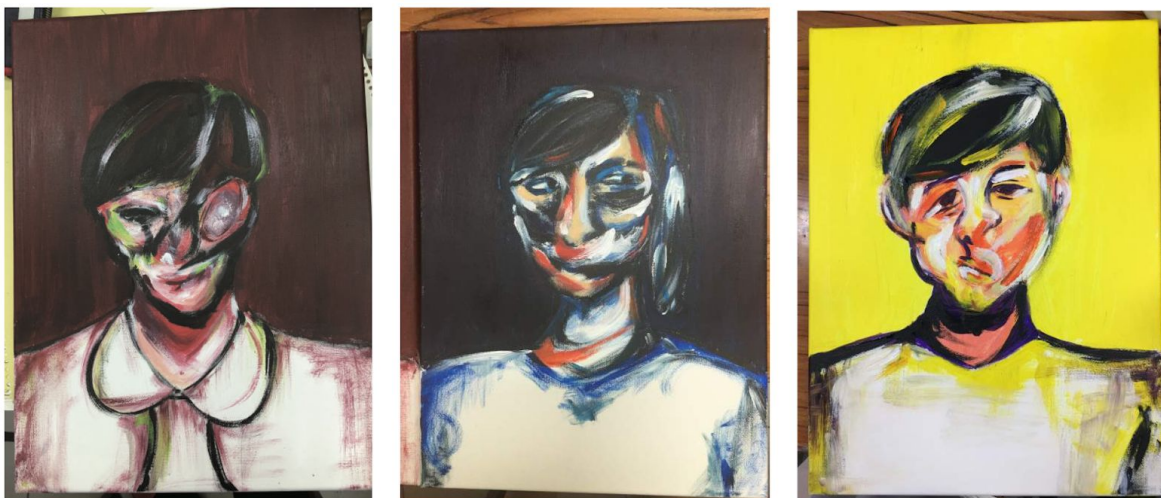
Through this mechanism of the dream, the left feelings or memory become the content that we remember when we wake up. This mechanism is called The Dream Work.

Condensation → Displacement → Symbolization → Secondary Revision

In The Dream Work, it divides into four stages including condensation, displacement, symbolization, and secondary revision.

Condensation is the first stage of this mechanism. It means the unconscious would amalgamate multiple-element into a single one, which in my artwork, I used surrealism art to present the idea as a dream can not be explained by “norms” and aim to pull off the restrain from the “norms”. In this piece, it aims to focus on people seldomly understand and give empathy to people who commit suicide, some may even think it was the insult of God. Yet, the protagonist was a patient with Multiple Personality Disorder(MPD) with no self-control. In the dream, the protagonist could “erase” himself, which related to the second part of The Dream Work, displacement.

Displacement indicated that our unconscious transforms our desire to imageries instead of directly displaying it. In the stage of displacement, to thoroughly deliver my meaning, I took Francis Bacon as a reference as he was also suffered from the pain of mental illness and a man who deeply understand the dark side of humans. He was also one of my admirable artists, I took him as a reference since my secondary school to portray my multiple personalities in a single situation. In this video, distorted portraits are also used to present the mind of the patient.



(personal 2016 work)



Francis Bacon-Three Studies for Portrait of George Dyer

After displacement, our mind comes to the third stage - Symbolization. According to The Dream Work, our minds will find a “symbol” as fetish once they faced a great castration in lives. Through this fetish, our minds created a distance between fantasy and reality. So even we seem like accepted the realities, we could emotionally deny it. In my work, I made a box-like machine and cigarettes as the protagonist’s fetish. And in the final, after the protagonist smokes the cigarettes and unboxes the machine, he is relieved, which means by “successfully” committed suicide.

Also, in the dream, a hand is usually symbolized as becoming lucid, yet, in this narrative, lucid means he is relieved, and dead. The multiple people pop up from the protagonist represent his situation, suffering from multiple personality disorder.

In the final stage of The Dream Work, which is secondary revision, our consciousness will try to link all of our dreams when we wake, and we will take the idea that buried deep down our conscious mind. Yet, in my work, it does not seem important as the protagonist is dead after the charcoal-burning suicide. The wine demonstrated that he did not come back to reality.

In this narrative, starting from the point of view of the MPD patient to the whole dreamwork mechanism are carefully considered. Yet, there are still a ton of things about dream have not been discovered. Dreams are always a mysterious thing to our conscious, subconscious, and unconscious. Yet, it could also be a window to know and heal ourselves.