

Brief of Work

The background of the piece depicts a city of Brutalist architecture, which is rooted in functionalism and rejects decorative and ornamental elements. The background recreates the city depicted in the poem, which is functional but has lost the sparks of human touch in the process of rapid urbanisation. The monochrome tone reinforces the dullness and depressing atmosphere of the city. The dangling cages represent the limitations to self-expression, and the restrictions and taboos of living in a collective society. A school of fish is present in the piece as a linkage to the poem's multiple references. The fish also serve as a symbol of the repetitiveness and the erosion of one's identity. The persona is depicted as a girl at the left bottom corner with a conventional uniform of a white shirt and suit pants. Her hands reached out to let off a vibrant tropical fish, contrasting sharply with the grey surroundings. Unable to walk out of the cage herself, she is still able to try for colours, and try to let her thoughts and voices shine through.