

Next to Normal Research Slideshow

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This is my primary image for the show.

There are so many defining and important elements of this image to focus in on.

I feel that the sharp clean edges and lines on the top half of the picture illustrate the sharp clean edged outer frame work that I find so important.

These lines are represented in the stems and the petals as they trail off.

The blurred and distorted lines in the reflection, or bottom half of the image, are directly in line with the idea of a damaged inside and broken person.

The two contrasting line elements directly represent the idea of a clean and sharp exterior frame and a ruined and blurred inside.



The next element that jumps out to me is the color palette. There are so many emotional colors present in this piece. The purple and lavender tones are particularly important to me and their relationship to mental illness and supernatural forces. But I really love the golden stems standing out against the black background and I particularly feel drawn towards the light blue/cyan color present in both the “sky” and the “reflection.”

I could go on about this one image for a long time between the colors, texture, shapes, lines, and so on.



This image is powerful for both the design elements and the idea represented by the couple at center.

Again, the purple and lavender tones are important regarding their relationship to mental illness as a “calming color” and how they often are used to represent supernatural events, such as Gabe’s presence.

The lines within the background are sharp but ruined, again representing that dual idea of clean edged but broken inside.



The couple at the center of this picture is the focal point. I find the texture used to create them particularly interesting. It is not a completely finished silhouette. It seems slightly elevated from the background and yet lying straight on top of it.

The people are translucent. There are cracks in their frames exposing the color and texture beneath. They are wrapped together in an embrace that seems like one of love but it could be any combination of the characters.



This image is from a series by Federico Babina called *Archiatric*.

The series depicts 16 various conditions through architecture.

This particular image is for Schizophrenia. Dr. Madden says that “sometimes bi-polar disorder has more in common with schizophrenia than depression...” I find this depiction of the condition fascinating due to the use of the house and the sharp lines. These lines and sharp edges mirror the ideas presented about the picture frame in the metaphor, while also reinforcing the simple house imagery.



This is an additional image to support ideas that have been presented in the previous slides. It uses slightly warmer versions of the previous color palette. I think this again goes to further that dual nature of the inner and outer views of the characters and their lives discussed in my analysis. The harsh black line cutting through the right hand side of the image is distressing. It seems like it has forced its way there, similar to how Gabe forces his way into the family. If you look closely it almost seems as though there are faces hidden in the background. They are distressed as well.



This is a picture I found when I searched from “Lavender Paintings.”

Again, I feel like this image expresses the dual nature between the sharp lines in the foreground and the blurred and distorted version in the background. The difference between the sharp and soft focus with practically the same flower is incredible.

I love the way the colors blend together in such smooth brushstrokes. It evokes a blending of emotion arising out of all the different colors. The lines are sweeping upwards which I interpret similar to the constantly rising stakes and tensions in the show.

They sweep upward and blend together until they come to a climax all at once at the peak of the image.

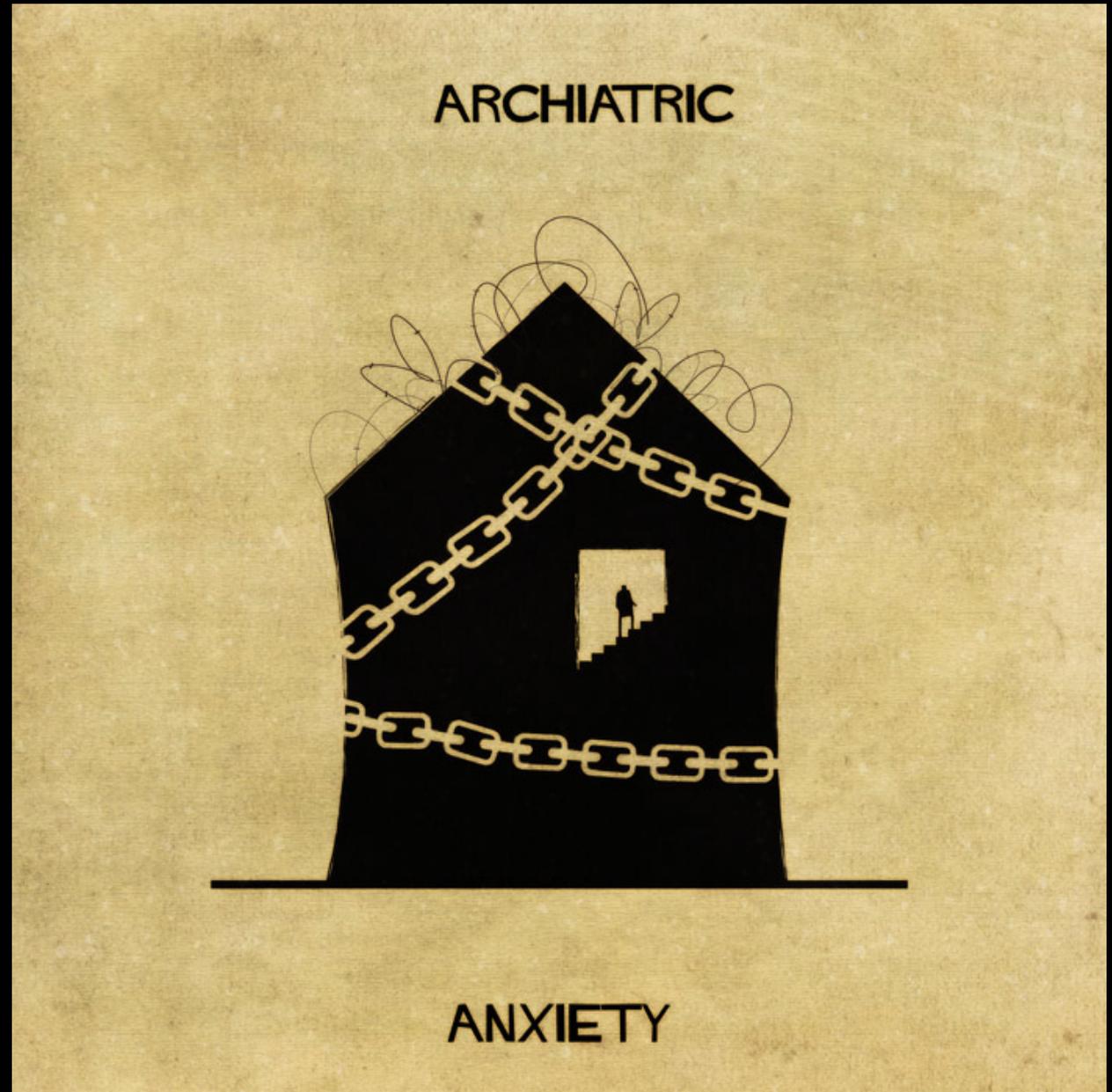


This image is from a series by Federico Babina called *Archiatric*.

The series depicts 16 various conditions through architecture. This particular image is for Anxiety.

I've already touched on the importance of the house and architecture imagery. The isolation of the person "trapped" in the house evokes images on the stage of strong isolation and sharp edges.

The chains and barbwire also represent the restraints and constrictions the Goodman family experience throughout the show.



This image is strictly an idea image.
I don't care much for the color or
the lines or textures.

However, I enjoy the idea
represented by the mask. I think
that her mask, and the removal
thereof, completely represents the
idea of how these characters carry
themselves. They are damaged and
hurting inside, but they put on a
smiling face because it's "Just
Another Day." The comforting hand
with the flower is indicative of both
Henry and the Dr. reaching out to
try to help these struggling people.



This is what I imagine the Goodman home to look like. It is an incredibly simple, straight edged, basic American house. I imagine pulling away the “fourth wall” and remove the front facing side of the house, but leave everything else. You would be left with very straight symmetrical lines, and a strong sharp frame. But inside the frame you would have messy rooms and chaos amongst the damaged people.



I like this image for a number of different reasons. Firstly, I love the sharp contrast between the lightning and the completely silhouetted tree against the purple sky. I think that sharp contrast of lighting is something we may see appearing in the show.

The idea of lightning or electricity is ever-present in this show. The obvious relation being to electroconvulsive therapy. The original title for the show was actually *Feeling Electric*. I appreciate how the lightning asserts itself into this environment, just like Gabe does throughout the show. It permeates everything and draws your attention as it causes beautifully destructive chaos.



This is another idea image. It's a little more depressing/melodramatic than I care to take things, but I appreciate the idea presented. Mending the broken heart. It can only do so much. I feel like this heart is evocative of "The price of love is loss. But still we pay.

We love anyway." That's potentially my favorite quote in the show. I think that this heart shows that is felt loss and damage, but chooses to continue to pay, and does its best to go on. To find that light.



Lastly, I wanted to leave with this image one more time. I find it so engulfing. I can stare at it for hours and continue to find more to love about it. So I ask you to do more than just “look” at this painting. Really look at it, until you’ve found everything you can, then look again.



The End