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'Slipping through the bars' (2025), Acrylic on canvas Sara Johnson rediscovered a love of art after being challenged by a friend to
undertake inktober and from there began developing and honing her art style. She
is currently studying art and design at Solihull College as a mature student on a
part-time basis. As an artist she finds inspiration in the here and now experiences
of life, often drawing from her practice as a clinician working in mental health.

Using mostly acrylic paint, she employs a language of fluid marks and organic imagery to express the transitory quality of life. Her work fluctuates between the representational to the abstract and is constantly moving along the continuum between the two. This is reflected in 'Slipping through the bars' which expresses

her journey between the function of work and the expression of art. Drawing on the Surrealist movement, this work assumes a dreamlike, ambiguous quality with the main figure slowly fading into the background, metaphorical of a fish out of water. The bars represent the notion of being trapped by social constructs, work and obligations to family. Emulating the journey of Emmy Bridgwater, whose own artistic journey was constrained by class and gender, Johnson has depicted obstacles that she has managed to evade, slipping through bars to create meaningful work.

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