

Botanical Gardens – Jess’ research report/evaluation

Intro

In voting to find the exhibition I wanted to exhibit in, was an easy dissection as I had a passion in my previous projects about the issues of climate change and the growth of life on earth. I noticed in the video presented that they key theme could possibly be the effects we as humans have on the world. I hope to create new work in order for the exhibition to work effectively and creatively by hoping to create piece that would be hidden but still be visible to the naked eye, with having to really search for the images and be able to identify the meaning behind the work. I wish to create and develop my skills that I have learnt previously through potential sound, video and different techniques of printing images.

History of The Botanical Gardens Swansea Singleton Park.

Originally known as the singleton estate by the Vivian family. The estate was then sold in 1919 to Swansea Corporation and turned into a public park. In 1926 the gardens became educational and officially opened as a “collection of economic plants and British flora”. 1991 the Gardens were renamed again as the Botanical Gardens containing its renowned borders and many mature trees of natural importance. Expanding in 2017 by adding in additional plants to the gardens included exotic plants, rare plants from all around the world. Inside the gardens are four main greenhouses, all for different usage in allowing plants to grow in temperatures of their own natural environment naming them Arid House, Temperate House, Economic House and the Tropical Range House.

Symbolism of the gardens.

This site symbolises what humans can do when they cherish the nature around them, in a way off saving the plant from extinction. The naturalism of the ground is created by the simplistic of the plants and trees. Caring for the endangered species and inviting the public in freely, creates an outstanding effect to the people that visit by encouraging them to grow and plant their own things by having a separate Polly tunnel that sells plants a small gardening equipment.

Climate change research.

Climate change happens when the earth's climate system creates new weather patterns over a long period of time. The shortest amount of time could be over a few decades to the longest time of millions of years. Climate change has been recently identified by scientist that the increase in global warming is due to human activities. The reasoning for the earth's energy system is an expression of how the weather reacts. Climate change has many consequences for life on earth such as plant life and sea levels rising.

Greenhouse gasses occur naturally to our planet and are essential for the survival of humankind and other living things. After more than centuries of large-scale agriculture, deforestation and industrialization and extreme amounts of greenhouse gasses have risen causing records to peak for over more than three million years.

- The concentration of GHGs in the Earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth.
- The concentration has been rising steadily, mean global temperature along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution.
- The most abundant GHG, accounting for about two-thirds of GHGs, carbon dioxide, is largely the product of burning fossil fuels.
- From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85°C.
- Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and the sea levels have risen. From 1901-2010, the global average sea level rose by 19cm as ice is melting causing ocean levels to rise.
- Given current concentrations and ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely by the end of this century global mean temperature will continue to rise above the preindustrial level. The world's oceans will warm, and ice will continue to melt. The average sea level is predicted to be 24-26cm by 2065 and 40-63cm by 2100. Most aspects of climate change will continue over many centuries even when emissions have stopped.

What is the Paris Agreement?

At the 21st Conference of the parties in Paris in 2015. Parties to the UNFCCC reached an agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments to lower carbon footprint. The Paris agreement brings all nations together to combat the effects of climate change and to assist developing countries in creating a smaller global footprint. The aim of the agreement is to strengthen the climate response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperatures low. 22nd April 2016, Earth day 175 leaders signed the Paris agreement at United Nations Headquarters in New York, declaring in making their country environmentally better.

2019 Climate Action Summit

On 23rd September 2019, Secretary-General António Guterres convened a Climate Summit in order to support the multilateral process and to increase and accelerate climate action and ambition. The event focused on key sectors where action can make the difference with heavy industry, nature-based solutions, cities, energy, resilience, and climate finance. In closing the meeting, the secretary general stated, "You have delivered a boost in momentum, cooperation and ambition. But we have a long way to go."

Artist Research.

Printing on different materials

For the exhibition I wanted to experiment on natural materials and reuse old material. By looking around the greenhouse I noticed on the trees and how people cut them down to keep their houses warm therefor found old bits of wood lying around the floor. For this practice I did not have a key artist but several of YouTube tutorial in what materials work best together weather using light wood and thick paper to cheap thin paper to darker wood where the grain would cover the image.

Unknown Photographers photographs used in exhibition.



This photograph by an unknown photographer captures the fireman and woman working together to save life on a boat during flooding in a part of the UK. The crew more to the centre right of the frame allows the viewer to see the impact around them as the cars are submerged in flood water. The main capture of the image is the men but looking at this photo closely the sky looks over exposed by creating a duller effect. The colours in the uniform are vibrant and bright making them stand out. Standing in the water the photographer has been able to document close up rescues taking place.

Capturing the image in the form the photographer has makes the image a story questioning the viewer what the outcome is for other residence in the surrounding houses. In my opinion the image captures an expiring and tragic event that could now happen to anyone due to climate change.



In this photograph is a car submerged in water with what looks like an adult and child climbing out of the car to safety of the firefighter waiting in shallower water. The bridge going over the road creates a darker looking image and with traffic coming toward the water emphasis more on the danger of the water. The streetlight reflection is strong on the water showing us the viewers how deep the water has gotten. Firefighters in the front of the image show no immediate action needed to be taken place as they watch both climb out of the vehicle.

The framing of the image is important in showing the full horror of someone trapped to the hip in water. Having the image in focus in the centre and the foreground helps construct the image, even though the background is out of focus we as viewers can still identify what's going on. In my opinion this image is a great form of documenting an event that been caused mainly by us humans and us being the cause we are actually the ones in the most danger.



In this photograph by an unknown photographer is a documentation of a woman going about her day like normal even though flooding. The bike and the woman in the right of the image seems to go into deeper into the flood water as the telephone boxes only looks slightly submerged to the left of the frame. In my opinion the tree in the centre of the frame separates and divides the image from giving a full perspective of what's happening in the frame.

The quality of the image is better than the previous two images by the control of light in the frame making the telephone box stand out effectively in the water around it. In my opinion the image contains humour of the woman on the bike just what seems to the viewer of her going about her business.



This image is very to the point but also shows the dangers of flooding. The sign is dominant and effective even though without it sitting on the left of the frame you can see the flood water has gone across the road from one field to another. Photographing and documenting this event will be useful in future in seeing how flood defences could be used effectively. Composition of where the sign is creates a strong impact on the viewer like if they were sat in the car and actually wanting to cross. Capturing everything in greys and dark green in the background with the red sign in the front of the frame creates a strong look on what's actually happened.

Sound artist Susan Philipsz



Installation of "Part File Score" at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, 2015. I hope to create an effective space like Bonakdar's by putting speakers in one room of the greenhouse above people heads so they look up around them and notice the environment they are in and question what the speeches are saying. This technique Bonakdar and other artist have used have been shown effectively. Having artwork also around I hope to show some artwork joining the greenhouses together by combining everyone's work together.

The work I have produced for the exhibition.

Working creatively on wood has allowed me to use raw materials and create a new meaning to them. The images printed on to the wood have been taken of the internet where I have edited to create a more vibrant image that will stand out on the wood. On previous



experimentation I tested prints on different grains, shapes and shading in hoping to allow the image to stand out effectively. In the four images I have selected each image contains a strong colour dominating the image mainly red, on signs, telephone box and clothing. During experimentation I found leaving the glue on overnight in a hot room allowed to dry fast and when it was all dry using low cold-water pressure with a brush and gently rubbing the surface until the image was visible. Some images had to mush pressure on and left some images flaky which left a good lasting effect as when leaving

them in the greenhouse over the weekend the workers watering the plants had created more of a fading effect. The more fading effect the images had the better, in my opinion it gives the true narrative of what the images are of flooding how one day due to human's global footprint our homes and our earth will be in the ocean. By bearing the wood in the earth allows bugs to create a new home and for the wood to decompose into food for creatures living in the greenhouses. Using digital images from the internet allowed me to focus on different parts of the United Kingdom that is affected by rain fall increase and lack of support of the residence.



Analysis of rescue boat in flood.

In this image I found a documented image of people being rescued from their homes in the UK due to heavy flooding. Putting this image in the exhibition meant having the viewers to understand the impact of climate change that it was a danger to our lives and how we as people react to crisis of people losing their belongings and home. In my opinion this image is strong to impact the viewer on future events that will increase over the coming years.



Analysis of image 'Flood'

This image found on the internet reflects a global hazard of water levels rising causing extintual flooding. The reflections of the water have printed and is visible on the image once on the wood creating effective looks on the grain. After placing the wood only on the ground the image didn't feel correct in the space and by putting the compost on and around the image caused the image to look and feel like it was naturally placed by also creating the decomposing of the wood and the image over time. In my

opinion this image printed on wood has been the most successful of prints as the complete image is still on the wood unlike any of the others that some of the image has carotid off already before the exhibition had begun.



Analysis of image bike flood.

This image creates a look to a new perspective of people carrying on with their day to day lives as they adapt to the weather changing rapidly from heat waves to heavy rain downfalls, all due to the pollution of human existence. The most important part to the image is that all the small details are kept on the print by able to identify the level of flood water in the photograph. The image to me creates a strong narrative of the future of Britain. In my opinion this image creates

humour as the elderly lady as she rides her bike through the water.

Video

In creating the video, I research a lot into natural disasters of global impact from flooding to fires to volcanic eruptions. All the short clips have been either filmed by the people in the tragedy at the time or by tv news filming the incident. By downloading these videos, I found difficult by having to screen record and then downloading the videos to edit. The cracking of the tv was an effect I wanted to create in how people flick through channels all the time in hoping some good news would appear and hoping to create an effect on the viewer of what is happening around



us. I originally hoped to play the video on an old fashion box tv in creating a bigger response for viewers to question why they are seeing a tv in a greenhouse and question how we as people to not fit into the natural environment. Creating a stand for the tv to stand on was a challenge as I wanted to keep it simple and to have people look down at the screen. By using a create the tv become portable

and was easy to keep the wires hidden from the audience and be placed in a simplistic way in the bedding of the greenhouse. Where I have located it in the greenhouse has allowed the screen to have coverage of the trees above allowing less sunlight to hit the screen but also with the viewer watching over, they also block the sunlight.



Analysis of video.

Clip 1 – 2019 Indonesia Tsunami

Clip 2- 2018 Guatemala, Volcanic eruption 25 killed

Clip 3- 2016 Papua New Guinea Earthquake/ tsunami

Clip 4- 2020 Australia, bush fires

Clip 5- 2019 India, monsoon flood, 140 killed

Sound.

As a group we decided we wanted to include political and none political speeches about climate change from Greta and Leonardo DiCaprio to Donald Trump and Barack Obama. I found whilst editing the sounds together that it was better in places to have one person talking at a time as it was hard for the brain to hear and understand the messages given. Deciding on who was in the final sound file was difficult as there are so many good and unique speeches about climate change that would inspire others but through picking five speeches allows the listener to be inspired to that individual voice.

Analysis of sound.

Sound 1- Leonardo DiCaprio – talks about Beijing pollution Crops washed away America droughts, flooding in Miami and antient glaziers melting before scientific predictions – human activity creating climate change. Impending disaster for all living things is planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels where they belong in the ground. Reverse of climate change we know will not be easy but together we could change the course of climate change.

Sound 2 – Joaquin Phoenix – talks about the fight against climate change and what we as people can do. And suggest that he can change his eating habits.

Sound 3- Greta – global banks and fossil fuels. Global emissions. Talks about how our world leaders are misleading the people. Hand full of rich countries hope to be net 0 and carbon neutral.

Sound 4 - Donald Trump ‘what he wants’ talks about his countries importance in climate change. Talks about the wealth of himself and the wealth of his country.

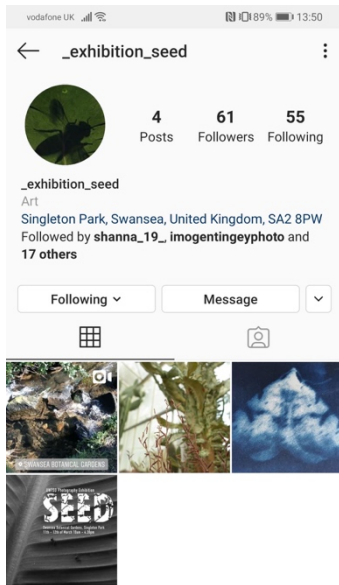
Sound 5- Greta talks about the pledges about addiaction and importing good. How 2050 0 emissions will not happen as countries are ignoring...

Sound 6 – Barack Obama talks about climate change around the world and how its effecting our generation now not in years’ time. Talks about economic impact and that climate change cannot be edited out.

Sound 7 Greta talks about the people who have become aware of climate change and hope for change due to democracy. “We can start the change right now we the people”

The days leading up to the exhibition.

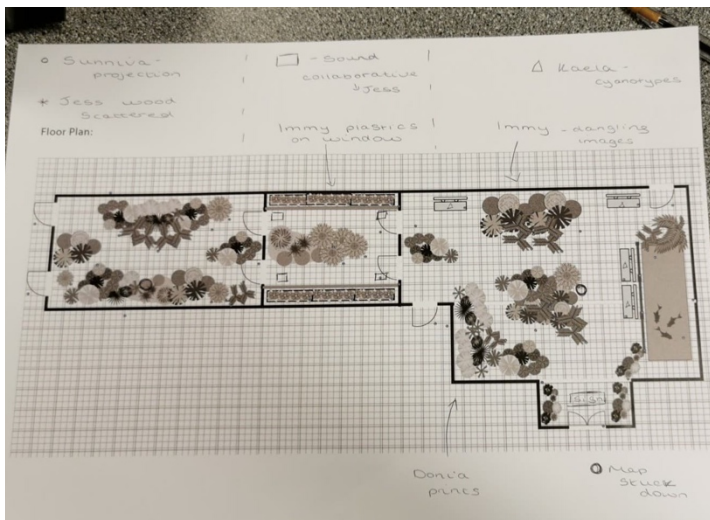
Days leading up to the exhibition we had many days of 9-5 working together in



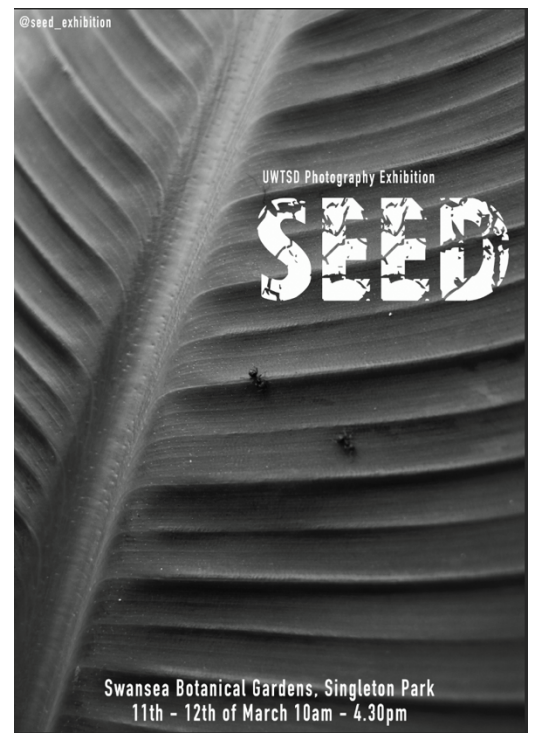
the space curating, working on work itself, self-assessing the work to make sure it was up to standards. Working in the space together meant working out electrical uses and solving any problems caused by weather conditions, public safety and what media works best in which room. All of us used time effectively by helping each other out on collaborative pieces, for example printing, cutting the zines, maps and posters. Working together made things less stressful and less time-consuming meaning we could work on more things to build on in the exhibition and also making awareness of the event. In research and visiting the gardens regularly we got to work with the staff on site and got to know more information



about the gardens especially there fundraising for the main gate which we then created a donation box for the zines to collect money. Working together collaboratively and individually has made this experience worthwhile in enabling us to develop social skills, working as a team and creating confidence in our own work. The evening before was last minute touches on printing zines insuring, we had enough for the course of both days. Also finding out people



weren't going to be present on the day made us all talk to each other more insuring that everyone knew what was happening at the correct times and



having the exhibition ready by 9:30am. Social media was of great way to get people to visit the exhibition and also creating posters allowed the local people to know of when the event was happening as when we were setting up days before people were asking questions of what the event was going to be about and they turned up to the exhibition and gave the group great feedback.

Days of the exhibition.

The day of the exhibition we all arrived at the botanical gardens by 9am to make sure everything was working as set out the day before. The prints were already in place only thing we had to do was place the electrical items into the correct space and set them up. The day before we had get everything set up how we wanted it and relocated the projector several times to see where it would look more effective and then step back as someone who hadn't been present before in order to see what the work looked like from a visitors perspective. Public visiting the exhibition were full of enthusiasm and question the techniques we had used as they said it wasn't like a normal exhibition where you would see prints on the walls. We also managed to raise

around £10 that day from the zines and telling people of the fundraising events that were going on. Opening and closing 10-4:30 was seen as challenging as several hours went passed without anyone visiting. In the morning we had to relocate a mirror that was of meaning to the complete project as water and condensation had formed inside the greenhouse causing the original tape to become unstuck and there for finding a safe place to relocate it on a door was essential. At the end of the day we only had to pack up the electrical items again in-case of weather conditions changing causing rainwater to seep into the greenhouse. On previous days where it was rainy, we had located where it had become most saturated and there for was able to make covers if needed on the days. The second morning of the exhibition seemed more relaxing in setting everything up as we all knew how everything worked and where.



Group roles

Jess- working on film and sound. Making sure all equipment is kept safe in and out of the exhibition. Posting on my own social media to create more of an awareness.

Imogen- Getting permission from the botanical gardens. Collaboratively creating zines and map with Adonia. Posting on social media about the event.

Adonia- Posting on social media, creating and printing zines and map.

Kaela- working on cyanotypes posting on social media.

Sunniva – working on projection and helping quorate using social media from weeks before the exhibition.

Everyone – Qu orating the exhibition. Displaying posters and posting on social media.

Working together to display the work. Talking and disguising electrical usual that were raised solved as a group effectively.

Evaluation

I found my role in the exhibition a massive part as I was taking care of the technology on my own outside of the exhibition, in my opinion my work, worked effectively in the space as we all decided on a them of climate change. I found creating work efficiently and effectively was needed in this module with working in a small group our proses had to be fast in order to fill the space appropriately. Whilst the exhibition was on I found the public were asking the correct questions we wanted them to ask as they couldn't work out why they couldn't see all the prints which was what we wanted to display as not everyone believes in climate change and most people don't want to admit that things are changing. In looking back over the last couple weeks, I noticed I should have used more of my camera in general to photograph things around me like the flooding we had early February and documenting it to be shown later in on in an exhibition like this one. Working as a group was effective as we could lean on each other for guidance and support rather than putting pressure on one individual. Creating more than one piece of work meant experimentation on more than one kind of media allowing me to progress and learn further techniques and pushing myself as I had previously didn't like film. Further on in my studies I hope to progress more techniques and styles to find what I can excel at. If I had more time, I would have hoped to create more work using more natural material that doesn't affect the environment.