Research report

A rationale (what is significant about the site? What are the conceptual/ contextual ideas that your body of work might address?

For the group project we chose the Dylan Thomas Centre. I am a massive fan of Dylan Thomas, I feel a genuine connection to his poems. I like the location of the Dylan Thomas Centre as it's situated in the Marina and I like water.

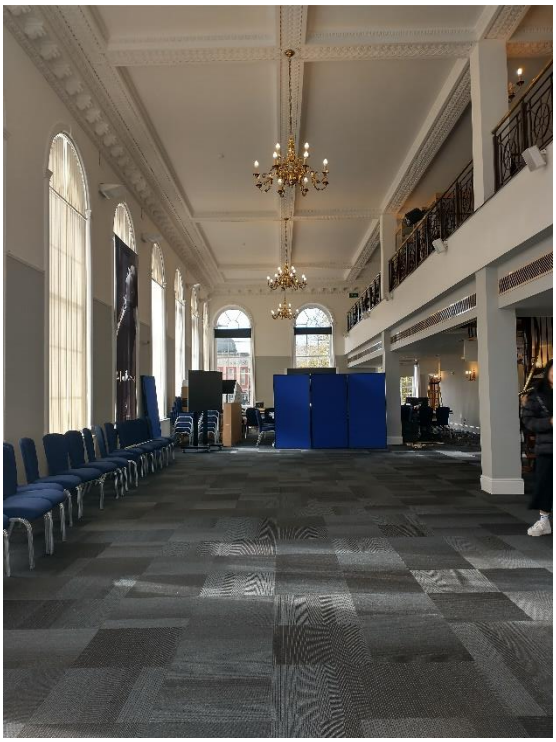
I created work responding to the Dylan Thomas poem "I have longed to move away". I really enjoyed reading this poem and immediately had a visual of the video in my mind. The beach in Swansea I think was very important to Dylan Thomas. Thomas was inspired by the beaches of the Gower and Rhossilli especially was a muse for some of his poems.

I tried to show how the beach feels to me in my work through creating images that demonstrate emotion and longing. My intention was to create a piece/pieces that demonstrated longing. I took photos of Saba looking/ gazing outwards towards the beach. Her face portrays a longing for something else perhaps something lost. "I have longed to move away but am afraid"- The grates casting the shadow over the top of the waves for me show the longing to move away but the inability to do so.

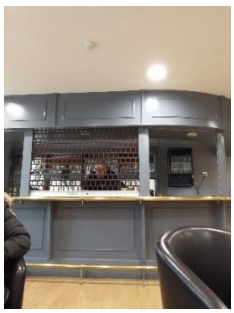
A summary of the research (history, location, etc.)

The Dylan Thomas Centre was built between 1825 to 1829 and started life as the town's Guildhall. It stopped being used as the Guildhall in 1934 when a new larger Guildhall. In late 1930's it became a juvenile employment centre then briefly taken over by the army to recruit during the Second World War. From 1949 to 1969 the old Guildhall became the youth employment bureau, and another part became Swansea technical school until it closed in 1982. The building then became uninhabited for 10+ years until it reopened in 1995 as Tŷ Llên, The House of Literature. The building is situated in the heart of the Marina next to the River Tawe

Information about the ‘site’ (maps, photographs, physical description, etc.)



The Dylan Thomas Centre is a large ornate building spread over several floors. As you walk through the large front you are instantly greeted by a desk at one side and the exhibition “Dylan Thomas, Man and Myth” housed by the Dylan Thomas centre for nearly 20 years on the other side. Straight ahead however there is a large winding staircase with a bar area greeting it (this was where our exhibition was held and my work was projected on the walls). The bar area consists of a small seating area and a separate bar partitioned off by the shutters.



Artist research that has informed your body of work

I Have Longed To Move Away

I have longed to move away
From the hissing of the spent lie
And the old terrors' continual cry
Growing more terrible as the day
Goes over the hill into the deep sea;
I have longed to move away
From the repetition of salutes,
For there are ghosts in the air
And ghostly echoes on paper,
And the thunder of calls and notes.

I have longed to move away but am afraid;
Some life, yet unspent, might explode
Out of the old lie burning on the ground,
And, crackling into the air, leave me half-blind.
Neither by night's ancient fear,
The parting of hat from hair,
Pursed lips at the receiver,
Shall I fall to death's feather.
By these I would not care to die,
Half convention and half lie.

The only piece of work I can really say that has influenced my film is Dylan Thomas's "I have longed to move away". This has not only influenced the meaning behind it but also how I chose to film it such as the panning shots and the movement. The superimposed figure of Saba evokes the "ghosts in the air". There was meant to be sound of the crashing waves and seagulls crying which were to represent the "thunder of calls and notes". Sadly I wasn't able to do this however because I was not able to get sound to come out of the projectors.

Techniques developed for the production of your body of work

I used some techniques that I haven't used before such as shining projections onto each other superimposing them and playing with elements of the space. I shone the projections through bar shutters which cast a shadow of the grates onto the video of the tide coming in and out. This created the feeling of being locked inside, watching the freedom of the waves. I also used other techniques I have used before such as shining projections, Panning shots, using Adobe Premiere Pro to edit the clips together and to overall enhance the look of the film.