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Programme of Study: Fine Art

Module: ADAD4019

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Word Count: 1441

"We all know that Art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize truth at least the truth that is given us to understand. The artist must know the manner whereby to convince others of the truthfulness of his lies." - Pablo Picasso

What is an Exhibition? Well the definition states *"an event at which objects such as paintings are shown to the public, a situation in which someone shows a particular skill or quality to the public, or the act of showing these things:- The photographs will be on exhibition until the end of the month, there's a new exhibition of sculpture on at the city gallery, the athlete's third, and winning, jump was an exhibition of skill and strength."* With this information, we can deduce that an exhibition needs to show something that another person can't do, something that entices the viewer in because you can't have an exhibition if you haven't got viewers to see it. I sat thinking for a while, ideas floated around about the broadness of this exhibition I had to create, and I landed on an interesting term that I personally think will be the perfect thing that would not only entice viewers in, but also allow for lots of creative freedom. I've decided to focus on an exhibition about the idea of 'Stasis', what is Stasis? *"a state that does not change"*.

Regarding why I chose such a term, I thought it would be interesting to try organising something so distinctively away from art, art in my eyes is all about being different, all about creating things that make people think about the world. However, I don't think art is necessarily all different either, from what I've learnt from researching art over recent years, there are so many pieces of art depicting similar topics and ideas that it's hard to make an impact with so much being made in this modern era, this does lead into my idea though. By using the space available to me, I can construct a viewing of multiple different versions of a single idea, showing how an image can be taken and warped into a variety of different forms and images, showing how ideas are just 'stasis' thoughts that can be covered up with a new body of work.

The layout of this exhibition would be rather simplistic with a twist on perspective, there would be four paintings, each sitting on a wall opposite each other, four paintings, four walls, all depicting the same idea but of course all being depicted in a different perspective from each other. The centre of the room would have four chairs, each facing away from one another and each facing one of the four paintings. The idea being that viewers of the exhibition can view each painting in detail, and then compare it to the next, in a rotation, highlighting each artist in the space and their depiction while giving the viewers time to decipher them, if the space would not accommodate for the four facing paintings, then I would have them situated two on each wall and have a chair facing each so that the effect I want to achieve is still able to be gained. I think this would create a special dynamic between the art and the viewers, rather than over-complicate the space with paintings splashed around and having no space for a viewer to truly admire the work around them, giving them the space to sit encourages them to take their time, to really look at the imagery and take in every detail, to attempt to understand the artists' point of view on the matter and soak in what the event is about. *"I must emphasize, no matter how obvious it sounds, that good curating depends upon a bottomless passion and curiosity for looking and questioning; and the desire to communicate that excitement. - Donna De Salvo"*

Reviewing the topic, I wanted to pick pieces that would be more imaginative than subjects like portraiture and landscape, I wanted something that would really intrigue the viewer about how these images all correlate and really make them want to sit down and study this imagery. I decided that dreams would be an exciting option to go down for this as it would not only give me an abundance of options but also give me some amazing artwork to get viewers who both follow and don't follow art into the room to truly understand how much an exhibition can take them into the art world.

I've decided to go down the route of keeping my artists the same as well, by which I mean I'll be using some of the most influential surrealist artists as my chosen subjects for the viewing, these artists include Giorgio De Chirico, Max Ernst, Rene Magritte, and Salvador Dali. I feel surrealist artists capture the unknown with such certainty, and these artists are no exception over that, after all, it was Salvador Dali who once said, *"Surrealism is destructive, but it destroys only what it considers to be shackles limiting our vision."* (Declaration, 1929). Pair this with a quote from Rene Magritte *"If the dream is a translation of waking life, waking life is also a translation of the dream."* and you have a pair of individuals who already work so well in a room together just based on how they talk about the work they've been producing, *"It is not my intention to make anything comprehensible. I am of the opinion that there are sufficient paintings which one understands after a shorter or longer delay, and that therefore some incomprehensible painting would now be welcome. I am at pains to deliver such, as far as possible."* - Rene Magritte. *"Everything we see hides another thing, we always want to see what is hidden by what we see. There is an interest in that which is hidden and which the visible does not show us. This interest can take the form of a quite intense feeling, a sort of conflict, one might say, between the visible that is hidden and the visible that is present."* - Rene Magritte

As for which paintings I would use of these great artists, I've decided on four that I think would share a room well together while giving off a strong presence that will bounce between them to make a beautiful space. The paints will be as followed: -



F. 1 Rene Magritte - The Victory (1939) F. 2 Salvador Dali - The Persistence of Memory (1931)



F. 3 Max Ernst - Oedipus Rex (1922) F. 4 Giorgio De Chirico - The Archaeologists (1927)

As seen above, I've tried to find paintings from the selection of artists that are not only from around the same time, but also use a similar colour palette and similar tones to further extend my point that the dream world has been taken on by so many artists, and yet each concept of this, while it is using similar colour schemes, they are so different from one another. This 'Stasis' concept of Dreams and them being a permanent feature in everyone subconscious is so interesting, it has been contorted and bent into something much more than just an unreal fantasy, these artists have all tried (and in my opinion succeeded) at making the impossible seem possible. The takes on the dream world are vast, and constantly people will look at them or even forgot they had them, and yet these individuals show that it is not only very real, but that it also can be interrupted in the stasis form of paint on a canvas, pencil on paper, and so on.

To end this Essay, I'd like to talk about one last quote, this quote further highlighting how art is forever, and cannot be changed from being the one thing it always has been. A permanent reminder of everything we can achieve, everything we could curate and construct in our own minds, our own dream world. This quote comes from the great Paul Cezanne and goes as followed *"Right now a moment of time is fleeting by! Capture its reality in paint... We must become that moment, make ourselves a sensitive recording plate... give the image of what we actually see, forgetting everything that has been seen before our time."* - Paul Cézanne The reason I've chosen this quote, out of the vast amount there are in the world of Art, is because it talks about the exact thing I love about all art. The ability to capture a moment forever, to freeze it in time, to forever hold it in stasis.

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