

EXPERIMENTAL STRATEGIES (ADAA5003)

Connor Howell

1818607

The group

- Connor Howell – photography of the arts (me)
 - Lucy Megan Beckett – documentary photography
 - Sophie Hooper - photography of the arts
 - Katie Nia Davies - photography of the arts
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The Bunkhouse

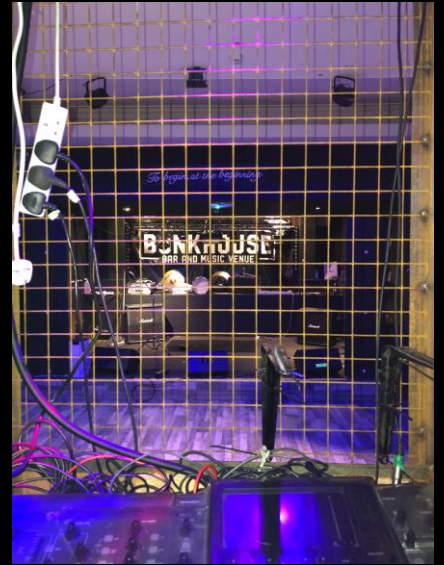
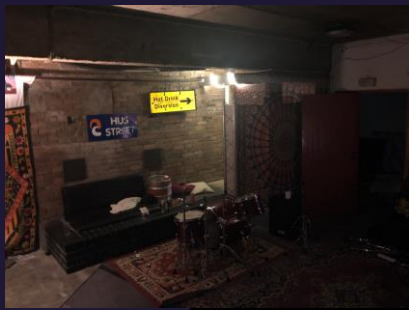
(The Location)

“The Bunkhouse is an award winning bar & music venue in the heart of Swansea. Opened in 2018 by a collective team of balding music lovers & misfits at the wrong side of their 20's who collectively have over 35 years experience of promoting live music across the UK and running venues & bars in South Wales.”

“The Bunkhouse has quickly become a staple of the music scene in South Wales as a small venue who constantly punch above their weight. The Bunkhouse is boasting two main bars, the Park Street bar being the entrance bar giving you a warm welcome, serving craft beers, a DJ booth, juke box, cloakroom and good vibes. Through the doors and into The Kingsway bar which is an award winning music venue, playing host to touring bands, acts & DJ's from across the globe and being the go-to-venue for local acts to play.”

Pictures of the available space





Initial idea for space/ideas for within the space

- The main idea for the space is to have it be present day on the ground floor showing what the buildings purpose is now in the current day, and for it to transition back to world war 2 by going down to the basement mainly focusing on the Kingsway with is the street the building is situated on.
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Ideas for within the space

- Have a representation of rubble in the upstairs room to represent how the building came from nothing after the war
 - Create a plane covered in posters of gigs that have taken place
 - Have newspaper articles from the years on the wall showing passing of time
 - Olafur Eliasson- Colour projections
 - Have sounds mainly bass be played on the ground floor of the bunkhouse and have the bass pass through the floor creating the ww2 feel of bombs being dropped above
 - Hang CDS from the ceiling and put pictures on them – play some of the CDs
 - Projections of war planes onto the mural/cityscape
 - Link picture or articles on the stairs with string lights
 - Gather things from the Kingsway – make cyanotype prints or take rubbings from various things around the building
 - Record the footsteps on the sticky floor and play back – layer
 - Have testimonies from people who were at the blitz in Swansea/other places and distorted their voices
 - Have a red/yellow string hung from the ceiling and run the whole length of the bunkhouse down to the basement
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History of the Kingsway Swansea

- This street was born by merging the old streets of Heathfield and Gower in the post-war reconstruction of the city centre where streets were widened, and in some instances re-aligned because of the absence of the buildings that would constrict development.
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General research into some of the ideas and what images/videos are available

- There was obviously limited resources out there as I am looking back 70-80 years but there is more than enough to make the ideas work (links to research below)

<https://ididitthisway.wordpress.com/kingsway-swansea-gower-heathfield/#:~:text=Origins%20of%20the%20Kingsway%20This%20street%20was%20born,world%20constrict%20development.%20Kingsway%20roundabout%20at%20Swansea%201950s>

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/gallery/history-swanseas-kingsway-pictures-18625605>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEg0XUGukzQ> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L57Z8ONrbw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCPDw4W-yiM> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uvqhA4_2tU

Chosen ideas for each person and allocated places

- Connor Howell – world war two footage of planes with music of the era. Location basement
 - Lucy Megan Beckett – cyanotype prints of the environmental things on the Kingsway tress etc. Location main room
 - Sophie Hooper – cds with macro photos of the music venues equipment. Location main room
 - Katie Nia Davies – photos from current day down to the 1950s (the rebuilding of the Kingsway). Location stairs
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To Begin At The Beginning



THE BUNKHOUSE
BAR & MUSIC VENUE

Art Exhibition
@ The Bunkhouse Swansea

November 15th 4pm - 10pm
November 16th 10am - 4pm

MY POSTER FOR BUNKHOUSE

Advertisement posters for exhibition

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'To Begin at the Beginning'



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Free Entry

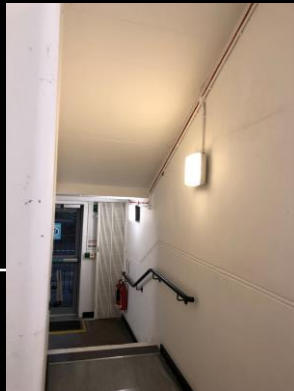
Tom pope – workshop

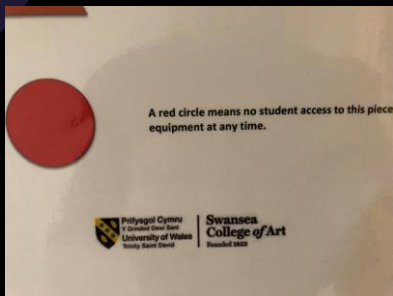
- “These works use performative actions. Absurdist self- portraiture that takes place in everyday spaces live in front of public gaze and scrutiny.”
 - “The artist acts as contemporary flâneur and provocateur, enacting perhaps playful or irrational actions and ungraspable experiments. The works are caught between the performances themselves and their resultant documentation, creating a discourse between time-based photography and notions of the event.”
 - “By collapsing the event and its record into a single performative moment we explore existential truths”
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“Paper airplane” — brief: follow paper plane and take photos every time it lands

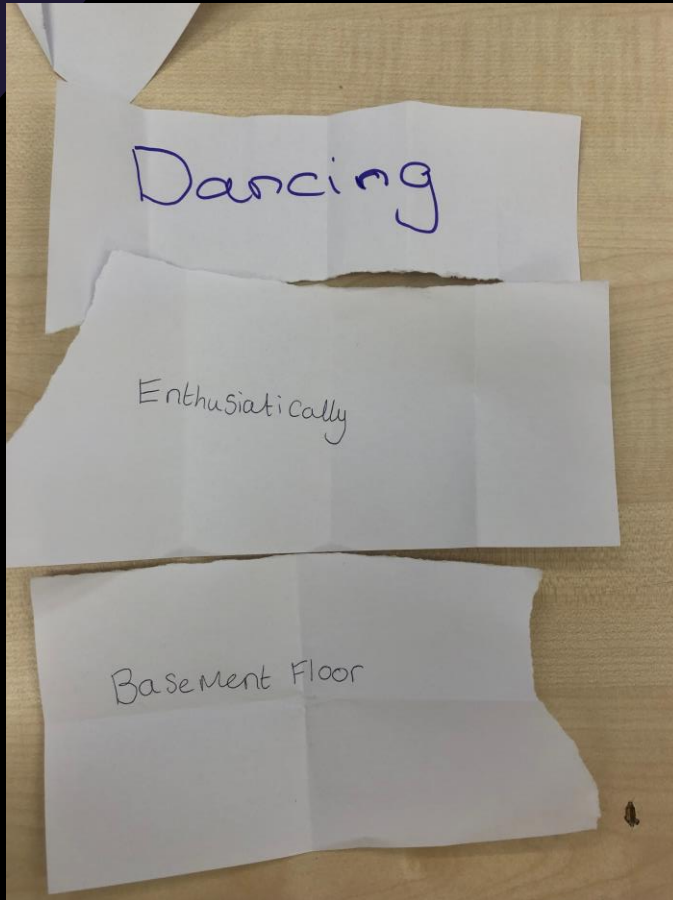


“Follow colour” — brief follow a chosen colour (Red)





“Random action” — brief: write 3 different things on 3 different pieces of paper shuffle them all and hand out



World war two Luftwaffe footage projection research videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_L37Z8ONrbw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIYx_46kRQ0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEg0XUGukzQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uvqhA4_2tU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCPDw4W-yiM>

Premier pro workshop with Dafydd Williams via teams

- A very interesting introduction to premier pro editing of video and audio as I hadn't done anything with video or audio before and therefore had never used premier pro, so a very good base to start my projection video off of the skills learned.
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First video edit

- This is my first video edit of the proposed video of world war two planes, it is made up of three different video cut together and edited using the vibrances tool, so they have the same grainy look.



← Video

Experimental audio recordings from the Bunkhouse

- As a grope we went to The Bunkhouse to collectively collect audio from the space specifically the floor as The Bunkhouse is a working venue/bar so the floor would be covered in alcohol therefore making it sticky, so we recorded those sounds of footsteps walking over the floor and other nose of creaking floorboards and celotape as it was experimental some of the audio came out good and some not so good



Experimenting with audio over video

- On another visit to The Bunkhouse, I showed the edit of the video to the group and then I edited the audio recordings over the video to get a base idea of what sound and affect it would have on the video and the space, we also projected it with speakers as we would on the day of the exhibition, the outcome was good and the painted skyscrapers on the wall added extra detail to the purpose of the video (continues next slide)



← Video



←Video

Final video edit with music and audio recordings

- after getting feedback from the group of the effectiveness of the video and audio and lectures, I wanted to really make an atmosphere with the projection and audio so wanted to add music to the video of the era and obviously chose Vera Lynn We'll Meet Again as it was the song of the nation and kept people together during the dark times of the war with the hope of seeing there loved ones again (final video edit on next slide)



← Audio



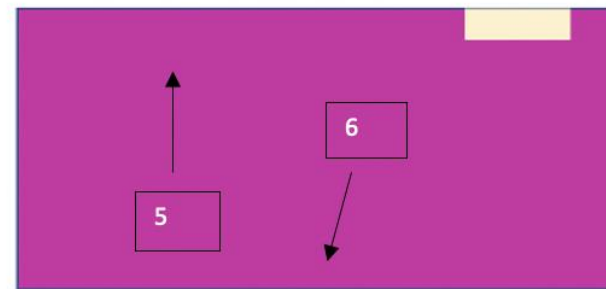
Exhibition floor plan

Floor Plan

First Floor



Basement



- 1- Lucy's layered prints
- 2- Vinyl Stickers of Lucy's prints arranged on floor and wall
- 3- Sophie's CD's with macro images hung on the stage
- 4- Katie's collection of images from various articles to create a timeline
- 5- Connor's war footage projection
- 6- Group audio recorded from walking around also maybe music overlayed
- 7- Rope positioned through exhibition in order to control movements

Exhibition leaflet

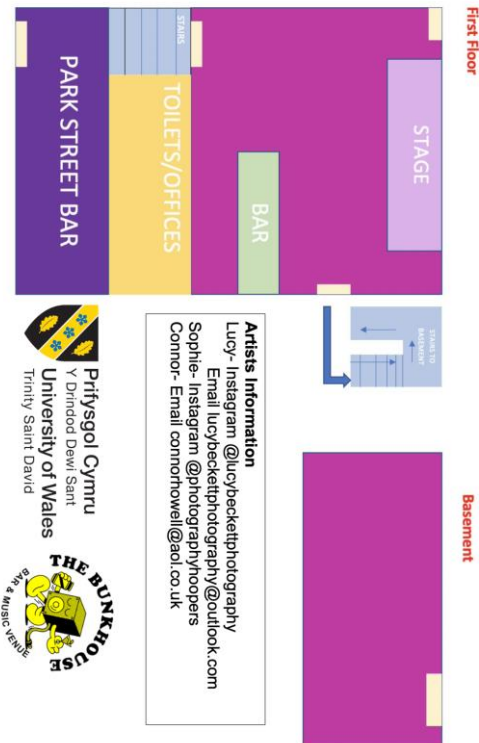
To Begin at the Beginning

To Begin at the Beginning is a collaborative, site-specific project by Lucy Beckett, Sophie Hooper, Connor Howell and Katie Nia-Davies,

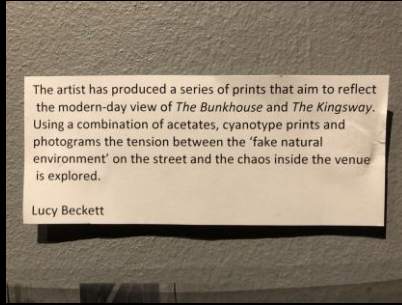
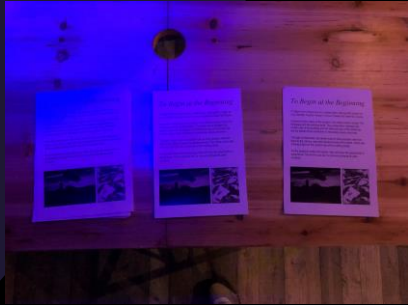
Inspired by the history of the location, the artists looked at both The Kingsway and the building itself. The juxtaposition between the current use of the building and the historical use of the street has led the artists of this exhibition to interesting visual outcomes.

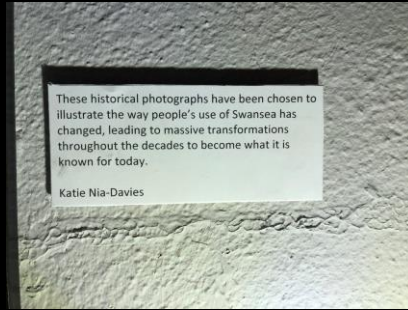
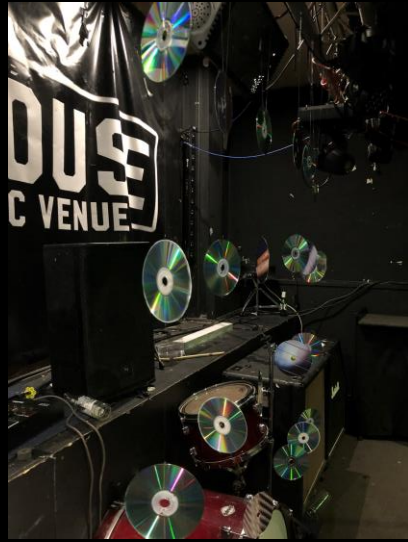
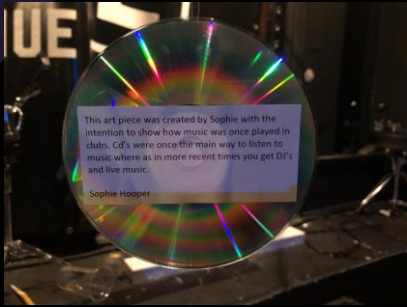
Through collaboration, the artists hope to draw people's attention back to the various uses and developments of the street, whilst also shining a light on the current use of the building today.

As the audience enters the space, they will have the opportunity to experience *The Bunkhouse* as it is now and glimpse its past contexts.



Photos/videos of the exhibition





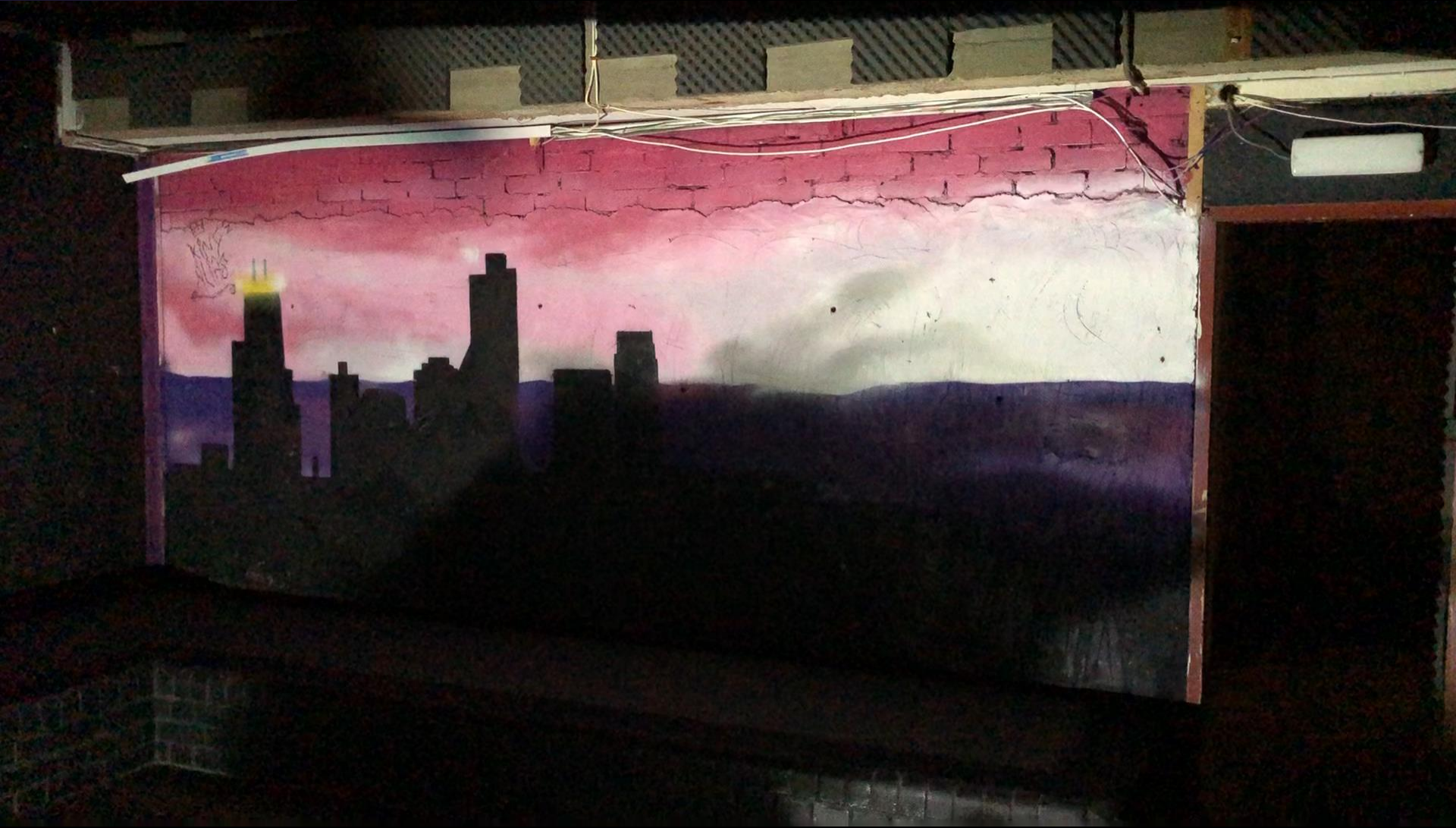


This video was created by Connor to reflect the Swansea 3-day blitz. By using archival footage and music of the era. The audio has been created by using audio recording taken from in *The Bunkhouse* when it is empty.

Connor Howell



Video of projection



Video of whole exhibition



Evaluation of group exhibition

- I enjoyed the whole process of the group projected especially as the group work so well together and came together on everything very well and everyone helped very one with advice or help on show day.
 - I feel my final piece for the exhibition was successful as everyone that came and saw it liked it and was more than embraced by the atmosphere and the vibe that I tried to create also on the day a swarm of fly's had occupied the basement area and they are obviously attracted to light with led to a cool affect on the projector as the flys would land and fly past the projector.
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