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Tutor's name: Julia Lockheart

Entitled 'NEVER JUDGE TRASH BY ITS APPEARANCE' is an exhibition inspired by the idea of reusing items and recycling them to create works of art or more specifically 'upcycling art' which is a process where waste materials are converted into something of higher value or quality giving it a second life' (pg. 28 Sung, 2015). Throughout the exhibition I will be touching on artists who are inspired by the idea of upcycling to produce art such as Tim Noble and Sue Webster, Guerra de la Paz, Yuken Teruya, Ai Weiwei and Veronica Richterova. The exhibition location would be based in a recycling centre which carries on the theme of trash being upcycled because the exhibition is in the place where the trash was left to die, throughout the exhibition I intend to explore the artist's perspective of upcycling art and the reusing of items that are transformed into a new life (a second life).

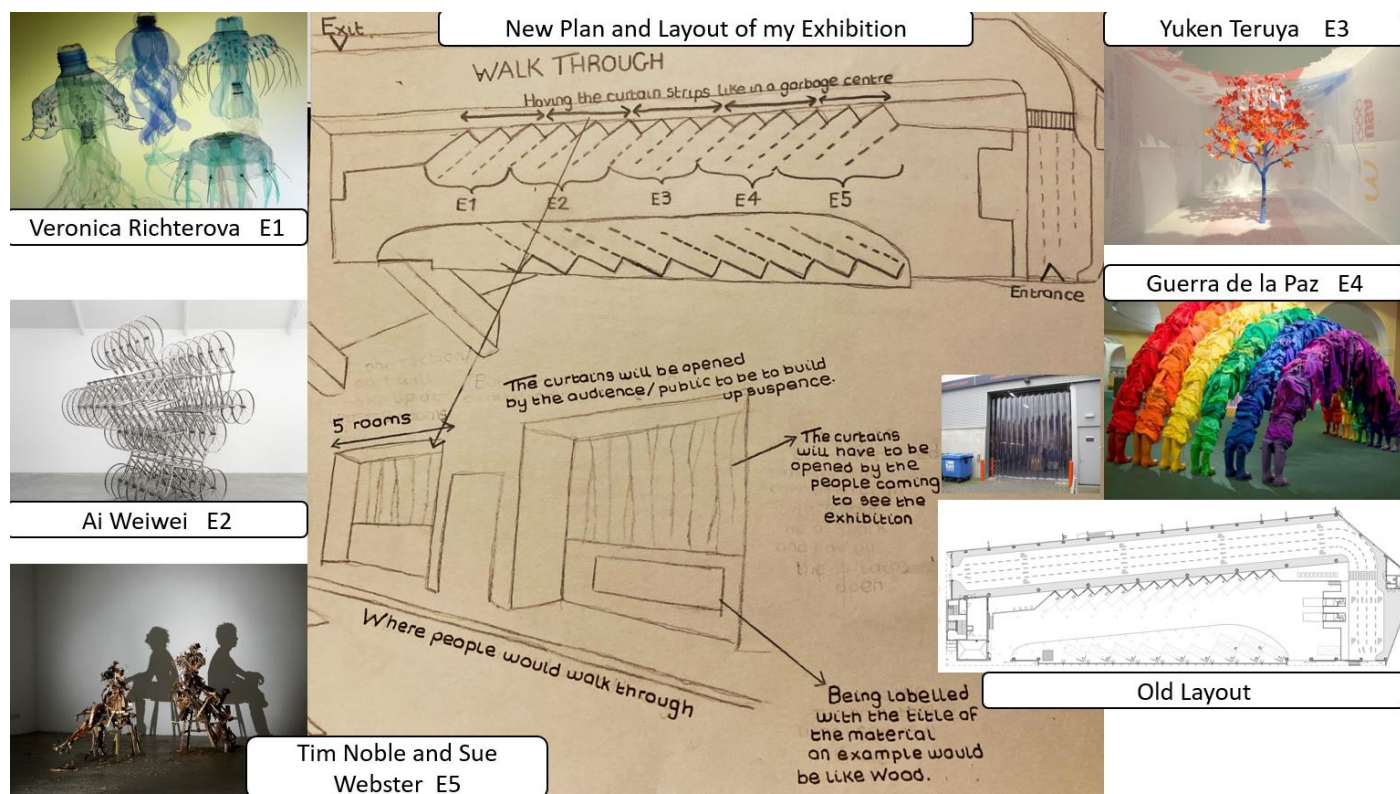


FIGURE 1 – BASE DRAWING FOR MY IMAGINARY EXHIBITION SPACE

The exhibition would contain 5 compartments that would originally have been rooms for each specific type of material that was wasted ranging from plastic, second-hand clothing, discarded wood, steel, and paper. The type of material would be on signage at the bottom of every compartment and just like in a normal recycling centre strips of material would have to be moved away so the audience can view the exhibits. I will explore the behind-the-scenes of some of the artist's work and what it would mean to the audience and to also have information about the artist's work, combined with their perspectives on the idea of reusing recycled items. As read in (Ihan, pg. 1, 2016), 'people tend to think that trash is valueless because it is no longer needed or not wanted any more' this shows that people think their unwanted items are nothing but rubbish and could not imagine it any other way. The idea of reusing items and upcycling them was started 'from the beginning of the twentieth century non-art objects draw the attention of artists' (Ihan, p.g36, 2016) although we may think that upcycling is something new, artists have used unwanted materials for longer than we could realise transforming rubbish into amazing creations showing 'things that are forgotten or discarded can easily be revamped to create something useful to someone' (Ihan, p.g54, 2016). Some creations could have social, economic, and even personal benefits and could support local and rural industries, but most importantly it is helping mother nature combined with the gaining of new craft skills. People think that exhibitions should be in a particular place but mine 'takes place in a locality that does not know itself: not the museum, the gallery or the exhibition space' (Martinon, p.g29, 2003) this shows that you can go past the boundaries of a traditional layout when it comes to an exhibition space and you don't always need to go simple that is why I have chosen is a very unexpected exhibition space to hold my exhibition but it fits the theme and will make the public feel like they are in the moment.



FIGURE 1 <https://www.veronikarichterova.com/en/ryby-a-meduzy/>

The 1st Exhibit is a display that is directed to the theme of plastic bottles created by Veronica Richterova and how the environmentally conscious artist started her plastic practice (dubbed PET-ART) in 2004 and has been developing methods to reshape plastic objects into artworks ever since. This exhibit shows a set of sculptured jellyfish which are art installations for the trade fair stand of the environmental organization NABU in Berlin which was created in 2014 entitled 'Fish and Jellyfish.' This was part of a series; of her work her inspiration was using plastic materials that are not beneficial to the environment. From some people's perspective Richterova's work is regarded as 'whimsical objects from the recycled bottles' how they have been reimagined into a new form of life I feel showing these sculptures shows that taking plastic bottles, which can be dangerous to sea creatures are then repurposed into someone beautiful depicting the sea creatures that they would be dangerous too. When a person looks through into the exhibition space, they will see the sculptures hanging at different levels.



FIGURE 2 <https://www.lissongallery.com/exhibitions/ai-weiwei--3>

Moving onto the next exhibit we come to unwanted steel reimagined into this object entitled 'Forever Bicycles Series' which was created by Ai Weiwei in 2014 this is a standing sculpture that has been formed using groups of 1179 stainless steel bicycles frames put together to create modular layers to be able to give an evenly distributed shape. Weiwei started using bicycles in 2008 called his design 'very Yao' but as the years progressed his creations using bicycles have become grander as time has gone on (<https://publicdelivery.org/ai-weiwei-forever-bicycles/>). He stands firm in his belief that 'you have to use your own experience to tell a story', he comes from China where the most bicycles are ridden hence using his own experience of bicycles to make his own artwork. By putting the bikes together shows that they do not have the freedom of movement which restricts them. This shows his advocacy of human rights through his art because usually a bike would symbolize freedom. Overall Weiwei's work has been a desire to explore new boundaries showing to 'move from existing situations into preferred situations.' (Simon, pg. 36 1996) which means that some prefer to move away from the old ways and change them into the new ways which I feel Weiwei is accomplishing through his work at the same as using second objects and recreating them in a modern way and giving them a second life as an art form.



FIGURE 3 <https://inhabitat.com/yuken-teruya-transforms-a-mcdonalds-bag-into-a-delicate-tree/>

The 3rd exhibit moves towards a more delicate form of recycling material this is paper for example carrier bags or takeaway bags and other paper materials this is a piece from the series by Yuken Teruya called 'Golden Arch Parkway McDonalds' which was created from only paper and glue in 2005, he took a discarded McDonalds paper bag tore a hole in the top to let the light in reinforced the sides of the bag then created a beautiful artwork out of the pieces of torn paper. So, you look into the bag to see the amazing delicate tree made from paper, showing that 'the more "exotic" and unfamiliar arts would be welcomed by the market-driven art world' (Lippard p.9 2018). I feel that he has recycled a bag to a depiction its original form as paper is derived from wood. Teruya said 'I feel that my work shouldn't only have the function of conveying the artist's message. My works have a right to simply beautiful.' I would exhibit this using some sort of magnification so that it would be seen better by the public viewing of the artwork.



FIGURE 4 <https://www.mbandf.com/en/parallel-world/sensational-recycled-clothing-art-by-guerra-de-la-paz>

With some of the exhibitions having either displaying one colour or even two, the next exhibit is showing a variety of colours in different shades focussing on unwanted or second-hand clothing and reimagining them into sensational recycled clothing art created by Guerra de la Paz entitled 'indradhanush' which was created in 2008 with Paz saying that they 'were initially attracted to these large quantities of clothing as they offered an abundant array of colour, sheen, and texture to choose from,' and how "Through a common aesthetic, we create work with a universal message," and how "It is inspired by an essential familiarity with the readymade." Showing that some of the objects at the onset where they are attractive to de la Paz before he were even created into art, the 4th exhibition shows a dramatic arrangement with the fabric creating a sense of character to create an ethereal rainbow that you can walk through and interact with the art as a whole the use of the second hand items transforms them into a powerful political and environmental message. To make this exhibit interactive I would have it on a large secure platform in the space with steps from the outside walking up and through the strips of fabric to then be able to walk through the rainbow.



FIGURE 5 <https://www.artworksforchange.org/portfolio/tim-noble-and-sue-webster/>

Finally, the 5th exhibit is in the category of discarded wood I have chosen artists Tim noble and sue webster whose work combines assemblage of the old pieces of wood combined with the use of light and shadow. The silhouettes are masterful self-portraits and a confession of the artists' own role in the rubbish revolution. This piece focusses on their artwork entitled 'Wild Mood Swings' which was created in 2010 with the unrecognisable image of a heap of discarded wood scattered to make some sort of form although once the light is angled in position it will show the main sculpture and what it is supposed to be and how it gives a fresher look to the sculpture altogether. It shows the idea of upcycling art and how it links to the idea of a powerful message and how they are 'using non-objects in the art opened new dimensions for the language of art and practice of art making' (Ihan p.g5, 2016) which is the type of art that most people find fascinating when using recycled items for another purpose. At the back of this exhibit, I would place a large white wall, so it can project the mood that is created from the two people, who are sitting down with their backs to each other showing me that there is an emotional mood between these two.

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