

Report: Site-Specific Exhibition

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Site Specific Exhibition Title: The Glory of Glowing Glass

Rationale

- Clearly articulate why the chosen site is meaningful. What historical, cultural, or social importance does it hold? How do these attributes align with the conceptual framework of your work?
- The chosen site of Saint James' Church holds a lot of meaning within its walls. Historically, culturally and socially. Which connects to my work, St James' church is not just a place of worship but also a place of community and connection. A church is where people come together to share their faith, a space to listen to God and each other, meaning that the social aspect is one of the most important parts of the church. The history and culture of Saint James really add to the meaning of my work. Churches have always been places where people come together to share their stories—through hymns, sermons, or just being part of the community. My work builds on that tradition by letting people physically “pick up” their own words and contributions, creating a stronger sense of connection and belonging within the church.
- Conceptual/Contextual Ideas: Discuss your group and individual interpretations of the broader themes your exhibition explores, such as identity, memory, community etc.
- The main theme of the exhibition was light, and a lot of the work focused on how light can transform an image, whether by creating ghostly effects or using candles and artificial light to set the mood. For my piece, I used flash photography because the natural light in the church wasn't enough to get the quality I wanted. The flash helped me capture the details and clarity I needed, while still fitting with the theme of light. My theme was community and connection.

A Summary of the Research

- Provide a concise overview of the research you have conducted over the past semester that has led you to the production of your site-specific intervention.
- Over the past 8 weeks, I've been researching for my site-specific work at Saint James' Church. I started by looking into the church archive to find some history or background, but there wasn't much there. This turned out to be a good thing, as it pushed me to take a different approach.

Instead of relying on old records, I decided to go straight to the people who know the church best, the community. I spoke with members of the church, asking them what the church means to them and how they feel connected to it. These conversations gave me a much better understanding of the personal and social importance of space.

- Demonstrate your understanding of primary and secondary research skills taught over the past 18 months in developing your ideas from concepts to final installation. (Site visits/ practical experimentation, data collecting etc.)
- I visited Saint James' Church several times to get a feel for the space, looking at things like lighting, layout, and how people move through it. These visits helped me figure out how my work could fit into the environment. I also spoke with church members, asking what the church meant to them and gathering their stories. This made my project more personal and connected to the community. I experimented with different photography techniques, testing natural and artificial light. In the end, using flash gave me the best results and tied in with the exhibition's theme of light.

Techniques Developed for the Production of Your Body of Work

- Outline the tools, materials, or methods employed in creating your work. Highlight innovations or adaptations that you have considered to align with notions of 'site specificity'.
- The written words from the church goers were written on acetates, I did this as I could've used these in different ways to produce work. I had the choice to use them in the dark room or scan them in and use them digitally. As the timeline was fast approaching, I decided to scan them in. Once they were scanned in, I then opened photoshop and overlayed them over the images I took of the human footprints within the church. I wanted them printed as my intention was to have people physically interact with the images. I printed them on A5 matte paper to symbolize the hymn books they use in service.
- Practical Application: Describe how these techniques contributed to the final exhibition and supported its conceptual aims.
- The outcome of my thought process was evident in the exhibition's success. During the event, several church members visited and engaged with my work. They searched for their own words, picking up the prints, and also took time to read the contributions from other viewers.

Individual and Group work overview

- Provide a summary of your contribution to the production of a final site-specific exhibition. What role did you take in the group?
- I wouldn't say we dedicated roles for everyone in the group, we just did what was needed. However, Carys made a huge contribution to the group. She was the one in contact with the vicar to set up times to go up there. She also did a lot of the designs for our map cards which we all took pictures for. Oli made the audio, which I offered to do but as Oli had used premier pro before it made sense for them to take over as they could get it done quicker than I could. So, my role in all of this was just providing help where I could give it. From giving ideas, helping set up, drawing the map for the back of the cards, and welcoming people into the church on exhibition day.



- What have you found challenging throughout the process? How have you overcome any hardship that you have dealt with both in the making of your work and working with others.
- The biggest challenge during this project was getting the group communication right. When we were together in person, it was much easier to talk and get things sorted, but over WhatsApp, it was a lot harder. At the beginning, there was pretty much no communication at all. Other groups were having meetings, and I had no idea what was happening in ours. Things got better once we met up properly during the afternoon lecture sessions. Being face-to-face made a huge difference, we could finally share our ideas, figure out what needed to happen next, and get on the same page. After that first proper meeting where we all talked things through, it felt like everything clicked, and communication became a lot easier. I'm really glad we managed to get past that rough start and work together in the end.
- what team and personal skills have you learned/practiced that might be useful in your professional development for future career opportunities?
- One of the hardest challenges for me on this project was meeting new people and having to talk and ask them questions. I get very nervous speaking to new people, on top of that it made it worse when I had to ask people about their connection with the church. As some people may not want to share that with a stranger, especially when

it is going to be used for an exhibition. However, the welcome I received at the church was something I didn't expect. Pretty much everyone I asked was open to writing down their thoughts. The hardest part for them was trying to think on the spot but I made sure they knew that they could write a word or the first thing that pops into their heads. That experience was something I wasn't sure I was going to be able to do, especially by myself. But I did it and I am proud that I did it because now I know I can do it again. This is going to massively help when I start my future career and with my confidence. And for the team aspect of the project. I felt as though the team worked well together.

Evaluation of the Exhibition

- **Execution: Assess the success of the exhibition in addressing the site's history, community, or spatial dynamics.**
- The use of personal stories from church members was a key strength. By incorporating their words and allowing them to physically interact with the work—picking up prints and reading through the pieces—the exhibition created a direct connection with the community. This approach made the work feel personal and relevant, reinforcing the social role of the church as a place of shared experiences and connection.
- **Audience Interaction: Discuss how the audience engaged with your work and the site.**
- My work was laid out, overlapping each other on the music stands in the section of the church where the choir sings. The decision to use the music stands was both practical and symbolic. As the stands are a symbol of performance and community. The work was an interactive experience inviting the viewers to pick up the images. The action of the viewers picking up the work, which for some of the audience may be their own words, reflects how the church goer picks up hymn books and prayer books. And this I think adds to the connection of the church and its people. And giving non church goers a place to reflect and take in the beauty of the words on the paper Infront of them.



- **Reflection: Identify areas for improvement and potential future directions for your practice.**
- For my next project, I want to focus on exploring more techniques and experimenting with different ways to produce my work. I've noticed that once I get an idea, I tend to dive straight into it without considering alternative approaches. While I'm happy with the work I created, I can't help but wonder how different it could have been if I had taken more time to experiment and explore other possibilities. Trying out multiple methods could lead to even stronger outcomes, so that's something I'll aim to improve on moving forward.