

Ways of Perceiving - Exhibition Project
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I am interested in Storytelling in Portraiture. How we change , how we adapt to new situations in life, experiences , which has a big impact on us. How Artists Tell Stories in Their artwork.

They not only memorialize a person in a specific place and moment , they also give something more like insights to the unique journey of a person. An artist *Laura Peyton* in an article for “*Artist Network*” (*Jordan,C.*) talks about powerful visual communication and in her art left interpretation for viewers.

My Exhibition will take place in “Mission Gallery”. It is not a very big space and I think large scale paintings will look good there. In bigger spaces they may feel lost.

Lighting on exhibitions is really important. I would like to have some light from the ceiling straight on artwork , also on both sides of the entrance hanging light bulbs. No other lighting to achieve a homely atmosphere. I would like to see daylight coming through the lovely little windows.

The most galleries I ever saw were always white. I wanted to add a little different accent by adding a black color on the walls in the main room. Inspired by *Zanele Muholi* photography. Some of the artists I chose are contemporary and will look good in serious and modern surroundings. Space needs to interact with the viewer.

I created a small cardboard model of the building with an installation plan of selected artwork. Also the short video represents all installations on my project.

I would like to create an exhibition for public view with large scaled paintings and photographs. All the artwork will represent a different point of view about the human expression and their valuable form, the artist's role of narrative through emotions and imagination. I made a virtual tour on the *Artsteps(2021)* program , available to viewers to imagine the exhibition better. I want people to have a journey from site specific prints with used everyday objects through paintings to build confidence and compare that with a picture of individuality.

We look for similarities between portraits we see and ourselves. If the expression of face is strong we may have some our own emotions and interpretation. Visual Picture can motivate a viewer to investigate , to explore , and use imagination.

Through face expressions and details we can say so much. Even backgrounds can have their own meaning.

History of art is a first survey of the use of imagery to communicate history, theology and allegory to people. Artists have been using art to tell stories since the first caveman drew on the cave walls.

Visible in religious paintings, commissioned royalty portraits, monuments, scenes on the walls and now in modern times. Contemporary artists have continued to explore a sense of self. They explore culture, relationships, personal experiences, reveal physical reflections. Challenging the viewer.

In relation to modern art, allegory has been widely used in all forms of art. Also throughout histories one narrative can mean another. Owens (1980) theory is that who uses allegory is revealing how objects can have many meanings, not only one. The allegory is appropriate to the thinking itself, not only in medieval man in general.

It is part of the nature of our language to present non-material things in terms of images. What is good and cheerful has always been beautiful and bright like the sun or sky. But all Evil and cruelty from the beginning were dark and ugly. Darkness was black since Homer and good have golden meanings.

There is a link between allegory and the female body.

Renaissance artists tried to realistically present figures in three-dimensional space, in accordance with the principles of linear and color perspective. The leading artist of the Renaissance, was the Master of Portraits Leonardo da Vinci. Science and art were for him a source of understanding reality, its principles, regularities and phenomena.

Some more modern artists would tell stories about war, heroism, suffering and pain. These days, artists know much more about the power of a good story. Our empathy makes someone else can relate to your experience and see some of themselves in your art. That also can make art more popular. Most powerful stories are local stories of suffering of people around them, some documenting injustice.

The ways the artwork is made are often read as expressions and traces of the individual subjectivity of the maker. (Doy, 2005, p. 7)

How art presents the strength of women. The most incredible example I found about portraiture is a book with *Women of the world in 500 portraits. (Noroc, 2017)* This book takes you to many diverse environments. Present the beauty is about being yourself, natural and authentic, being free. Every page, every picture tells a story. We are so different, but something deeper connects us all as human beings.

Warhol's portraits are radically different from the tradition of portraiture, in which a portrait is valued so much as long as it shows the individuality of the portrayed person.

“Warhol’s Marylins - at once icons and eye blasts - made their impact, by multiplication”.(Bell, 2017, p. 109)

This can be seen in the hostility in the reactions of the critics. Portraits of the seventies painted to order they were the target of venomous criticism.

Contemporary Canadian artist *Andrew Salgado (Fig 4)*, seriously beaten, now has something to say through his artwork regarding issues of underestimating people. Artist says: “ That a portion of my past shaped me as a man”(Salgado, 2015).

He painted self-portrait with blood on his face after a brutal attack on him and his partner. Which transformed his career, painting is a story of personal triumph. One I chose shows his career after. His style leading figurative paintings through abstraction. Large - scale portraits are symbolic and very colorful. Artist is based in London. He was a subject of the documentary *“Storytelling”*(Salgado, 2015), which shows the behind the scenes journey. He uses all kinds of mediums in one piece ,so artwork becomes more meaningful, creates different looks and texture ,and creates different moods. Sometimes he uses brush strokes to emphasise a point or something to stand out.

I chose this artwork, because in the past I had a chance to see this artwork in London on a school trip. I remember it made a very big impression. I love every piece of this colorful exhibition.

Another contemporary Canadian Artist I like very much is *Tim Okamura (Fig 2)*. He investigated the identity, metaphor and present portraits of powerful women. He looks at portraits as a form of storytelling. He tried to create positive messages surrounding these women. His artwork begins in his community. He painted people , mostly interested in females. He has a unique method of painting mixing realism and graffiti. The soul shouting from each canvas with combination to modern times. Painting I chose is a portrait for confidence and self-esteem. Young Jamaican heritage lady wanted a portrait which built her confidence going through a challenging time in life.

I would like to explore the power of women in their individuality by *Jenny Saville (Fig 8)*. Her art is rich in texture , distorted large scale female nudes. In the past she watched many hours of plastic surgery, she focused her art on the female bodies and modern anatomy.

“Bleach” (Fig 9) painting can make viewers feel overwhelmed , sharing the pain and maybe see the eyes of hope. Face on the painting looks like her skin is peeling off. In her paintings from abuse, achieve perfection. She presents women individuality in each canvas. She changed the way we look at the female form in art. Presents the vulnerability of the human body.

Also women in two figures illustrated by *Frida Kahlo (Fig 6)*.Her painting is a change of herself after divorce with Diego Rivera. It is exploring a duality of her core. It is an expression of loneliness. Broken, lonely but not isolated, beautiful and proud.

Inspired by her childhood , espoused a vulnerable heart and her love for her husband. I chose this artwork because as a young person I watched a movie about Frida. That made an impact on me as I felt a connection with this women artist ready when I was a child. She has hard experiences in life , accidents which change her life ,misscarriage.Those experiences made her strong. She became a political activist and a very famous painter. I feel I kind of relate to this artist , that is why I chose her for my exhibition.

The last artist I found last days is South African photographer *Zanele Muholi (Fig 10)*.Her newest set of self-portraits is a serious reflection on the genre and her place in it. She is trying to heal people through those images. She says "*It's about being the beauty that you want to be*" (Tate).

Her large prints look absolutely amazing. Print (Fig 13) is a dedication to all the domestic workers. She uses materials of daily life to show they can have different purposes. Forced a viewer to rethink about materials and their history.

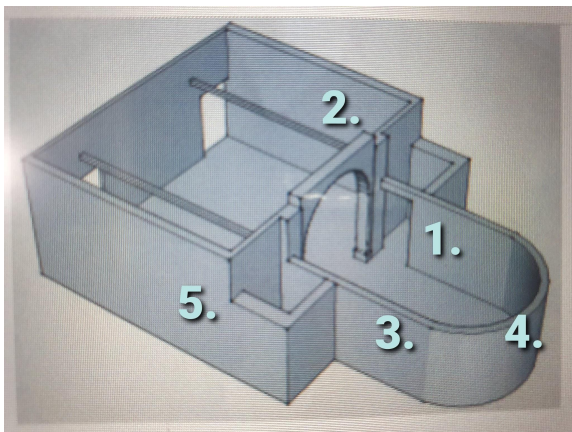


Fig 1

Artwork installation plan:

- 1.Okamura,T. Trust Your Dopeness
- 2.Muholi,Z. 3x Prints
- 3.Kahlo,F. Two Fridas
- 4.Saville,J. Bleach
- 5.Salgado,A. 20 years



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



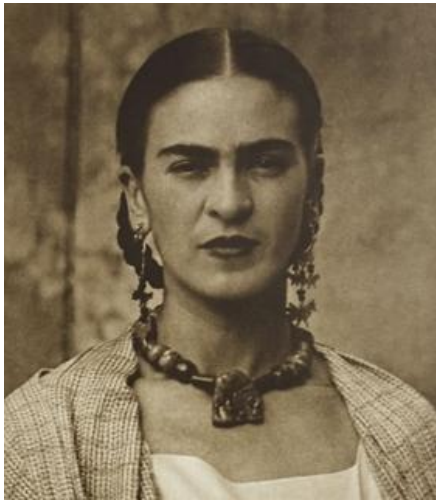


Fig 6



Fig 7

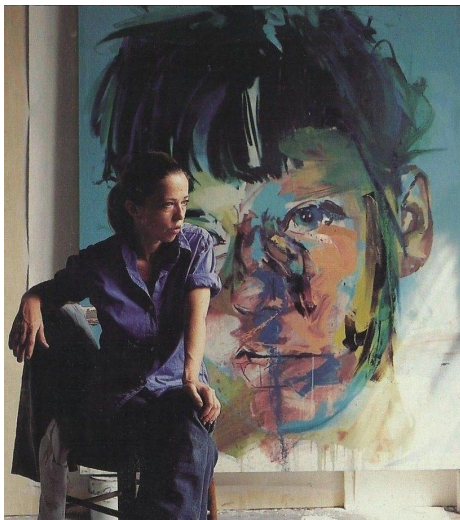


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12

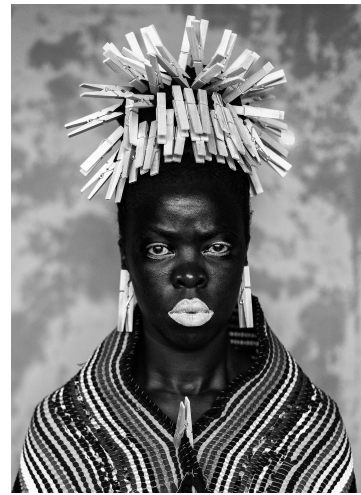


Fig 13

My cardboard visual project of Mission Gallery Exhibition.



Fig 14



Fig 15

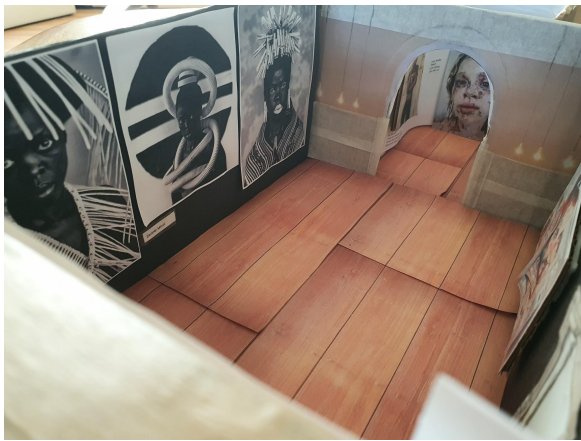


Fig 16



Fig 17

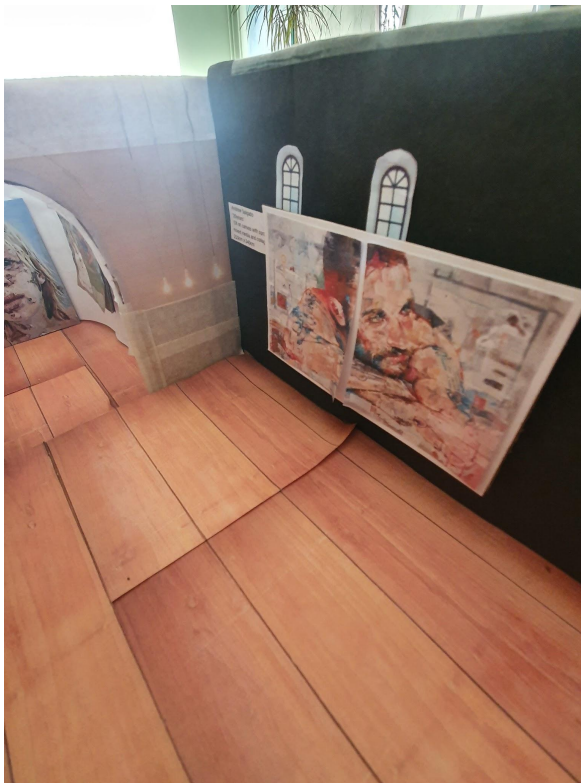


Fig 18



Fig 19



Fig 20



Fig 21



Fig 22



Fig 23

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Fig 14 - 15 My cardboard model outside

Fig 16 - 23 My cardboard model of the Gallery inside

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YouTube Link to video I made of my cardboard building visualisation.

Available at: [video] <https://youtu.be/hRw1ls2EE5s>

Virtual tour of my project in Artsteps (2021) program:

Available at: <https://www.artsteps.com/profile/608d510e8240ef699e69ceb8>