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Title: Romantic Gestures

I intend on curating an exhibition featuring five similar themed pieces of artwork by five different artists. This event will be called Romantic Gestures since I've concentrated on the theory named Psychology of Attraction Proximity by M.Farouk Radwan, as I feel its best suited to my study of research. The location for this exhibition is to be set in the Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown, Powys, as it relates to the proximity towards me. Through this I have selected relevant pieces of work to support my research on this theory, in which I will be focusing on how proximity effects our relationship with one another. Considering this exhibition gives away the work in the title, it will encourage similar people to become interested in seeing it, which relates to the theory of 'people tend to become attracted to those similar to them' (Radwan, N.D)

I plan to build this exhibition in a simple square based room, which will measure four metres square, with a height of three metres. There will be an entrance and exit through one big door, and a fire exit alongside it, in

case of any emergencies. I have chosen a simple square based room, because I want the public to be able to walk around the big sculpture that I have chosen to focus the room on. I have decided to do this so that the public can take in every aspect of it, as they are lead around the room. I chose the room to be a one way system, this would enable everyone to go on a journey with each other whilst looking at these amazing artworks. I've also done this as I feel as if it's the closure that can push one another to interact, especially with the small space. After all, 'similarity creates familiarity' (Radwan, N.D)

Romantic gestures, what does this mean to everyone? Imagine how many romantic gestures there are around the world, with different cultures and beliefs. In this society we live in, we are free to choose who we want to love. Where as some people are less fortunate, unable to chose who they want. In the United Kingdom, "forced marriage is illegal and has been since 2014" (BBC, 2018). As I researched this, I felt a sudden urge of sadness to find that many people do not have the power over their choices. The title 'Romantic Gestures', how does it make us feel when we hear them? In today's modern society, there are so many ways to communicate with each other. With the technology at our

fingertips, it is easier to connect with people. Social media's like Facebook, Skype, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime, give us a visible aid to show our gestures to one another when we are unable to meet.

I decided to choose a theory based on love, as I was unsure what to focus my work on at first. As I read into the theory with more depth, I became intrigued that this could actually exist. In my young life I have never really thought about proximity affecting relationships. I have watched multiple videos on *YouTube* in the past showing people who are committed in long distance relationships, who manage to make things work out. But as I gave it more thought I realised, how much easier it is to actually see who you want to be with in person rather than just over social media. Being able to see someone is far more easier and better on the relationship. Due to this recent pandemic happening globally, it's opened my eyes and made me realise how hard it is not being able to see people everyday that I usually would. It's definitely taken a toll on certain people, and also a few people with their relationships. Although space can give us what we want and the time to think about things, it can sometimes ruin things which were good. I wanted this exhibition to

be something relevant, to show us something that we can not have at the moment. It's almost as if I am taking back what's mine, not sexually, but the intimacy between spending time with someone. In the theory it is stated that the physical proximity 'increases the attractiveness of a person' (Radwan, N.D) as long as there is a repeated exposure that occurs.

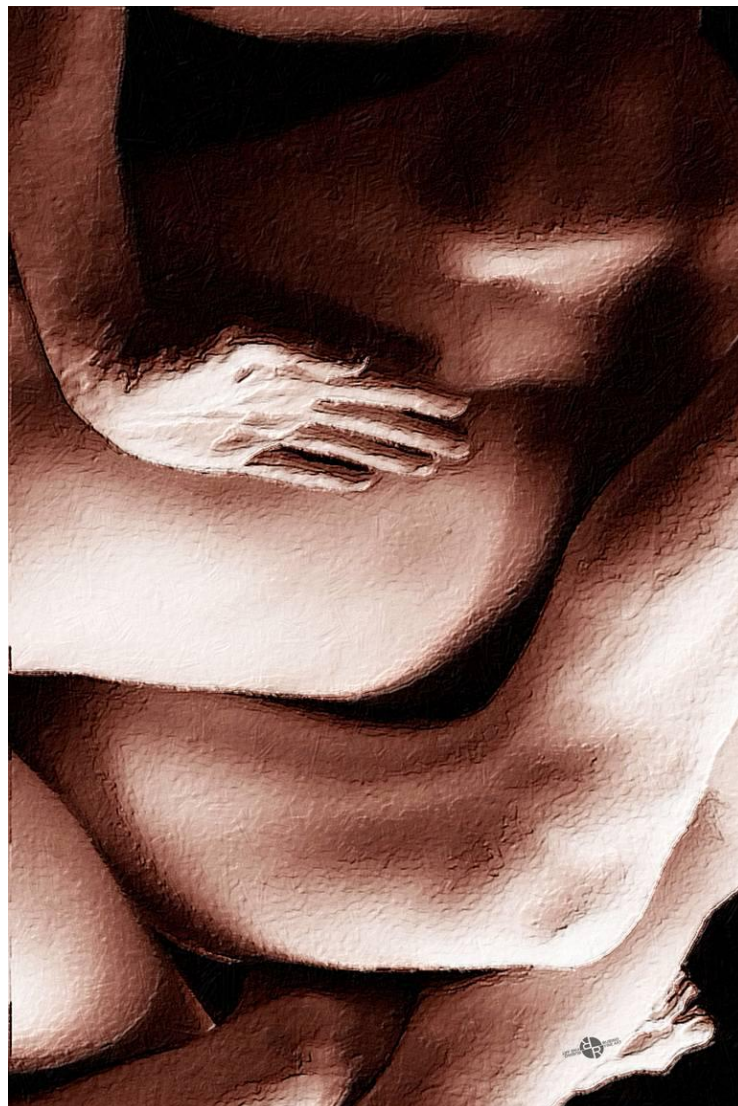


Fig one:

Positioned on the left as you come into the room, I chose an artwork called 'Tangled Bodies Intimate Anonymity 3' by Tony Rubino. Which is very popular on almost every online shopping outlet like *Etsy*. When I first saw this, I was confused as to what it was, but as soon as I read the name, I completely understood its purpose. This is about intimacy between two lovers who are interlocked whilst offering their souls up to one another. Their perception of acceptance between each other is vital, but they both remain anonymous between their intimate body limbs.



Fig two:

Alongside 'Fig One', since the theme of romance and lust is in these pieces of artwork, I decided to involve a painting named 'Lovers Hot Night 5' by Carmen Tyrell. As I was researching this painting I discovered that Tyrell was inspired by images that she had seen all around her in her everyday life. This could of included the use of magazines, newspapers, or even social media. Personally I found this insightful that she could turn something seen as being negative into something appreciated in the art world. I had also noticed that Tyrell uses a lot of bold lines, colourful backgrounds, alongside textured displays in her work. In her biography she claimed that she liked to capture 'artistic beauty, harmony and happiness' (Tyrell, N.D). I enjoyed researching her

work for this exhibition as she is a contemporary artist with a very modern way of interpreting her amazing work.

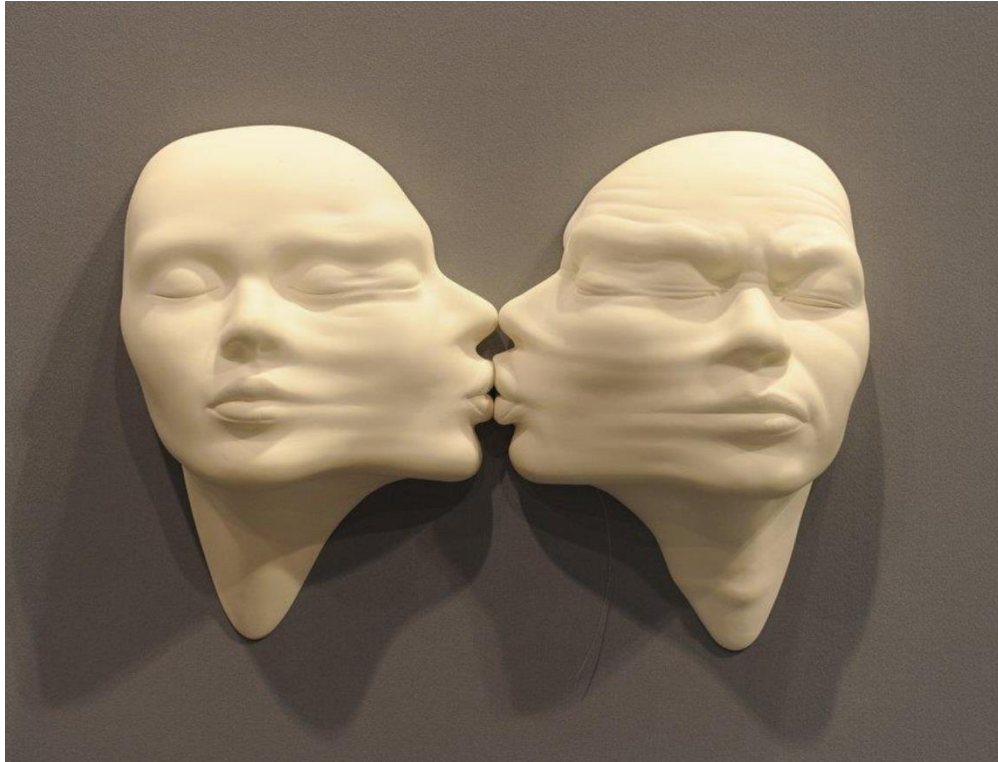


Fig three :

Artwork positioned on its own wall at the back. This is named 'Still in One Piece IV' and was created as part of a series called 'Lucid Dreams' by an amazing artist named Johnson Tsang. The story set behind this mesmerising piece, is about 'two star crossed lovers' (Tsang, 2016) with their hearts connected to each other, but their minds torn apart. On the outside they still carry on despite feeling broken inside but on the inside, they are still 'dreaming of the day' (Barris, 2016) that they can be with

one another again. These amazing sculptures are made from porcelain clay, which gives them this beautiful plain matte finish. I find that this piece is very symbolic towards romance, and how the right person at the wrong time is a very natural moment to experience in one's life.



Fig four:

On the last wall to the right, this is where fig four will be placed. The name of this painting is 'The Lovers II' and was created by an artist called Rene Magritte in 1928. In this beautiful painting there is a man and a woman who are embracing one another with a kiss. We don't see their faces since they're both wearing a whiteish veil of cloth, the colours can be linked with a calm expression which can also be 'associated with life' (Magritte, 1928). It is thought that this painting can be 'interesting and thought provoking' (Magritte, 1928) since the woman's head is tilted upwards and her posture is almost leaning backwards. Whilst the man leans downwards to kiss her through the veil of cloth. Another point I noticed was that the woman's clothes which are red, also associate with the feelings of anger, lust and love. The painting is a very tricky one to consider feelings from since you're not sure how to really feel from it, the mix of colours is astonishing but leaves us with very mixed emotions.



Fig five

I decided to select this very famous sculpture to be featured in my exhibition, as It was the first piece that made me want to select the theme of romance. Positioned in the middle of the room so that every angle is appreciated. It is called 'The Kiss' and was created by Auguste Rodin during '1840-1917' (Rodin, N.D). It's said to be one of three

sculptures that Rodin created in his life, making it part of a series. This particular sculpture is said that it represents the two characters borrowed from an Italian poem called *Dante's Divine Comedy*. The two characters are named 'Paolo' and 'Francesca' and were supposedly condemned to wander eternally through Hell. Although this features two very smooth models, it is said that Rodin liked to leave imprints from his fingers where he had massaged the wet clay. He also preferred to leave the chisel marks in the stone, instead of smoothing it all out, making his sculptures 'inherently sensual' (Guardian, 2018).

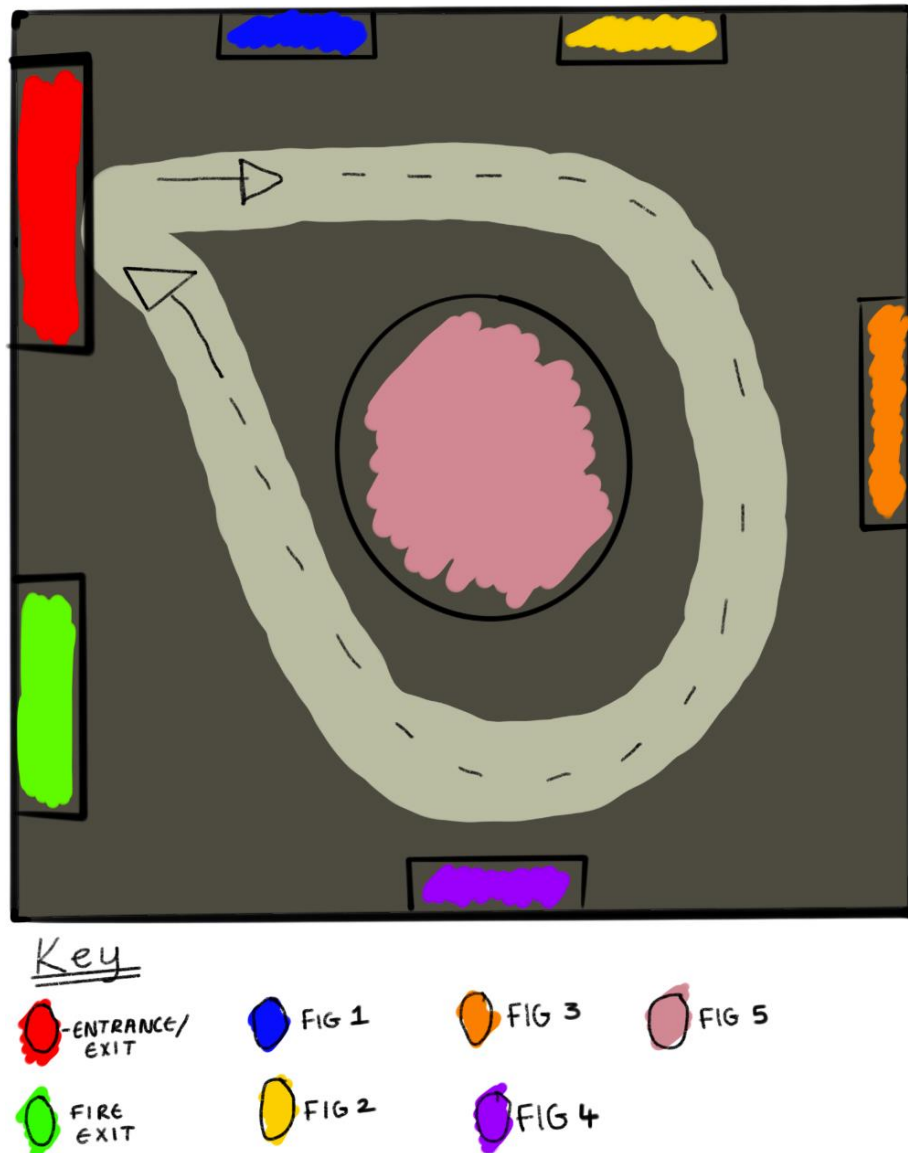


Fig six

This is my exhibition layout plan, I have decided to go with a simple box room as I want it to give a feeling of intimacy with the artwork. I chose a one way system so that everyone would experience the emotions around them, whilst viewing the

pieces of work in the same order. I put the pieces in a specific way so they tell the story as you walk around. I feel a bigger room would take away the intense feelings people will get from the art . I plan to use soft lighting around the room that will change colour to reflect the mood, I feel this will heighten the experience. I want people to leave my exhibition with a feeling of euphoria, peace and enlightenment. I also want to make them realise that love and relationships can be so complicated. Love creates great happiness but also horrendous heart ache, that still we crave time and time again.

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Fig 1. (N.D). Tangled Bodies Intimate Anonymity 3. Tony Rubino.

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Fig 3. (2016). Still In One Piece IV. Johnson Tsang.

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Fig 5. (1901-04). The Kiss. Auguste Rodin.

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