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Task Title: Ways of Perceiving - 'Rebel with a Cause' Exhibition

I intend to curate an inspiring exhibition to help children and young people explore their imagination, creativity and to be influenced to pursue a career in the creative arts. Using modern day technology, I aim to display the exhibition live for all audiences to witness on social media platforms which can be accessible for everybody around the world to join. I believe this would be easy to use for young audiences as they are growing up in a generation where phones, tablets and laptops are used almost every day. This exhibition will introduce children to the world of creative art and will include artwork with bold, bright, and vibrant colours which I believe drew myself as a child to pursue and study art and design at university. I have chosen pieces of artwork from childhood paintings and bold pop art pieces to street art/graffiti and textile designs that have influenced myself during my childhood and pieces I think will inspire children and young people. I have named the exhibition 'Rebels with a Cause'.

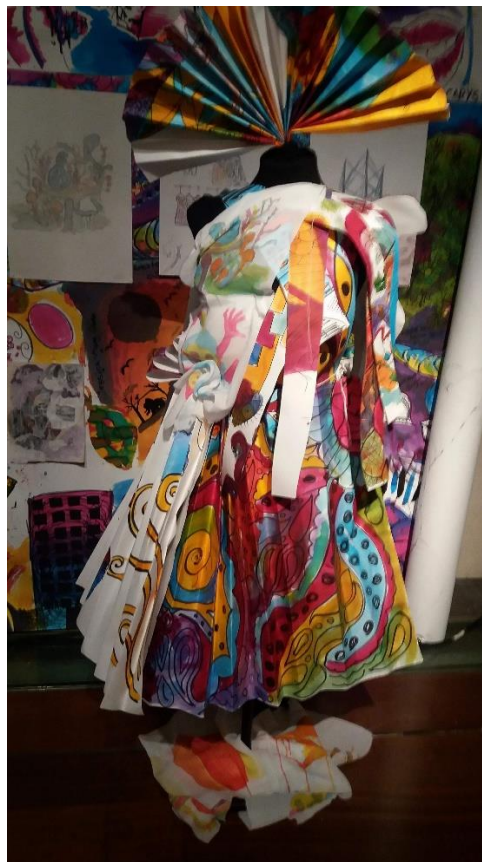


Figure1: Anonymous textile piece from Somerset House exhibition (own photograph)

In the article, *Three Approaches to Teaching Art Methods Courses: Child Art, Visual Culture, and Issues-Based Art Education*, it states that children and young people are 'afraid of art; afraid of their own art skills.' (Chang, Eunjung, 2012.) This could suggest that one of the many reasons why young people do not go down the career path of being an artist is because they are too scared or insecure to be themselves or to show their peers. They may fear the judgement and aftermath it could cause to themselves which would affect their wellbeing in the future. They are also too afraid to be who they want to be because of the limitation and expectations of society today. I am hoping this will not be the case throughout my exhibition as I would want the audience to see pieces of artwork that do not need the approval of others to be worth value. I want to show that experimentation and thinking outside the box can lead to success. I think the image I have selected above (Figure 1) for my exhibition shows a lot of creativity, the artist has not been afraid to express themselves and has produced a unique design that is quirky and fun. I believe this will appeal to my audience as it is a colourful piece filled with eye-catching shapes and has an abstract construction.



Figure 2: Anonymous Andy Warhol inspired painting

Again, in the article *Three Approaches to Teaching Art Methods Courses: Child Art, Visual Culture, and Issues-Based Art Education*, it also explains that 'students understood art as "learned expectations about art" (p.44), not as their own definitions of art' (Chang, Eunjung, 2012.) This could suggest that many children especially in these modern times are influenced by pop culture and our society and it shows in their pieces. But are we really seeing what they truly think about the world or

about our society? Or has society depicted that towards them already? Children's naivety could be tested and therefore we are not seeing what they want the world to look like, what inventions they would like to see in the future, what possibilities could help look after our planet in the foreseeable future? for example. What could children accomplish if they were not limited by the weight and expectations of our society? What could they achieve if they thought differently or outside the box? See things from a different perspective/angle? These are some of the questions I would ask the younger generation and find out throughout this exhibition. Are these individuals brave enough to take the risk and do what they want even if they do not get the results they expect? I was really drawn to Figure 2 as it stands out as a pop art piece. I think my audience will appreciate this piece and remember it for its bold and striking colour palettes which are exciting and have a friendly vibe because of the welcoming handprints.



Figure 3: Childhood drawing of my family (own photograph)



Figure 4: Anonymous Georgia O’Keeffe inspired paintings

The article *Signs, symbols and schemas: understanding meaning in a child's drawings*. *International Journal of Early Years Education* that when we see children drawings, we are seeing the ‘constructs of reality and working theories of their world.’ (Deguara, Jo, 2018.) We all see our little drawings from our childhood as impactful memories. They are usually imaginative, tell some sort of narrative or express some emotion or can be just complete nonsense. However, these images also show us a child’s personality. Which colours did they use more? Bright, vibrant cause they are more attractive to a younger audience? Which colours did they use less or did not use at all? Maybe colours they do not like, it all shows their personality and their strong views even if it is only on colour palettes, at such a young age. Figure 3 shows an example of my own childhood drawing. This is special to me even though it does not look very realistic, it shows the audience my home and family life. I would like the audience to be inspired from my drawing and give them the confidence to show their happiest memories of childhood which would then influence other young people. Figure 4 is another example of inspired pieces of childhood pictures and displays beautiful and creative imagery of children’s depiction of flowers. It’s inspiration from nature makes the images purer and more innocent just like the minds of young children. It is known that children often draw pictures of family, friends, people they look up to and heroes but sometimes a young person will use art as a way of escapism to relieve some negative emotions. In my exhibition, I hope to include pieces that reflect this as many young people would relate to and understand that there are other children experiencing this.



Figure 5: Anonymous street art/graffiti in Callela, Spain (own photograph)

I intend to create a social media account on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube to broadcast live events for spectators to attend at different times through a period of 2 days as I aim to make this exhibition globally for all young people to access. As we all live in different time zones, the live event would occur at different times across a variety of time zones. The article *Art in Education* quotes that 'The arts are a genuine international language' (Anon,1950) meaning that even though across the world, we all speak in different languages, communication through the arts is multilingual and can be understood by anybody, our opinions would all vary from being positive to negative.

I believe that a mass number of people would view the live video displaying the exhibition. However, if some audiences were to miss the live video, I plan to upload the full exhibition walk-through and commentary onto the YouTube channel for viewers to watch the exhibition at any time. I think this would create a way to connect the audience and the artist and an opportunity for them to explore the artist's other pieces of artwork. In the article *Expanding Our Vision for the Arts in Education*. *Harvard Educational Review*, it explains 'They inspire discipline and dedication. The arts can also open pathways toward understanding the richness of peoples and cultures that inhabit our world, particularly during this period of global change. The arts can nurture a sense of belonging, or of community; they can foster a sense of being apart, or of being an individual.' (Clapp, E. & Edwards, L., 2013.) Creating and sharing art is one of the many ways we can bring people of all ages together even though views on different pieces would be different. Another feature I will be including onto the exhibition is to include the artists social media accounts from Instagram as I noticed they appear in Figure 5. The illustration depicts of fish in the ocean and gives the piece a fresh and adventurous feel which I believe my audience would find exciting and interesting.

I believe this quote from the article *Contextual worlds of child art: experiencing multiple literacies through images*, *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, Vol. 12 summarises the purpose of my exhibition and all the points I have explained throughout this dissertation. 'Children's images reveal the colour of personal expression, the lines of their experience, the shapes of their thought, the textures of their imaginations, the forms of their being, the patterns of their learning, the inner and outer spaces of their worlds, and the contrasting elements between the real world and the imagination.' (Binder, M. (2011)). My aim is to curate a lively, fun space that is safe for all young audiences to watch and enjoy, participate in and use to escape from reality from time to time. I hope to inspire these individuals to believe in themselves and follow their dreams.

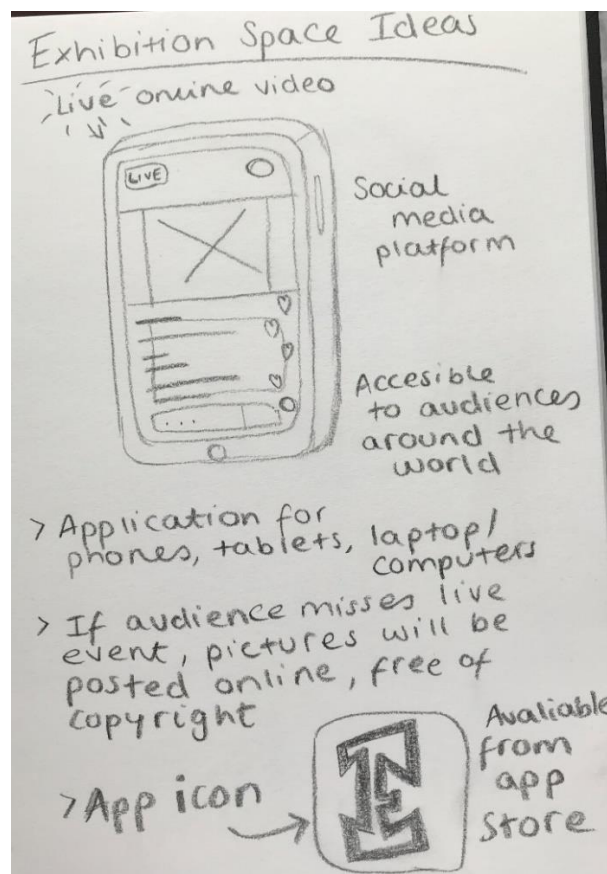


Figure 6: A diagram of the way I would produce, and the way spectators would view the exhibition

Figures

Figure1: Anonymous textile piece from Somerset House exhibition (own photograph)

Figure 2: Anonymous Andy Warhol inspired painting

<http://createartwithme.blogspot.com/2012/05/quick-modern-art-project-warhol.html>

Figure 3: Childhood drawing of my family

Figure 4: Anonymous Georgia O'Keeffe inspired paintings

<https://www.artbarblog.com/artist-study-kids-georgia-okeeffe/>

Figure 5: Anonymous street art/graffiti in Callela, Spain (own photograph)

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