

Site Specific Proposal

Swansea Observatory (Tower of the Ecliptic) -

Located in the Swansea Bay area, the observatory was designed in the late 80s by architect Robin Campbell and built in 1993 with assisted funding from the European Heritage Grant. The observatory was originally built to home the Swansea Astronomical Society and did so until 2010, Its closure was due to disagreements with Swansea Council over rental prices. After years of vacancy, the building has since been bought and transformed into a bar/cafe by a local businessman.

The distinctive architecture and location is my main source of inspiration. The building manages to marry both art and science with its inclusion of stained glass, a spiral staircase, sculptural theatre masks and a statue of a female figure, holding a representation of an eclipse, adorning the top. This blend of subjects allows for a range of different theological contexts and creative experimentation, therefore the ideas and themes I am considering exploring, are as follows;

- Constellations - star patterns often named after animals or mythological subjects i.e Andromeda, Cassiopeia. Looking into the grand stories of greek mythology.
- Examining the parallels between deep space and the deep ocean
 - Both are vastly unexplored, unforgiving environments.Overflowing with mystery, fantasy, horror and mythos.

- Cosmic/ Eldritch Horror -sub genres of horror that highlight the insignificance of humanity in the uncaring vastness of the cosmos and what lies beyond the scope of human consciousness and time itself.
- Connections between space and the human body - intricate systems of many moving parts, harmoniously working together to sustain balance and existence.

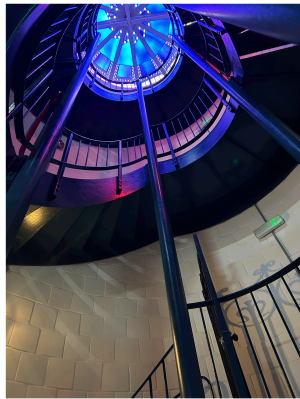
My main research has been conducted through internet search and articles. The information I have been able to find about this site has therefore been quite limited, however I plan on contacting and setting up a zoom meeting with the ongoing Swansea Astronomical Society along with allocated Swansea archive access.

Images -

Exterior



Interior



Outdoor Floor Carving

*PULSING LIGHT,
SUPERNOVAE TUNE THE
EARTH*

*ATOMS DANCE ATOMS
SING*

*THEY KILL, DIE WHO
SEEK TO CLING*



Notes on the site space / progress -

I have visited the site and spoken to a member of staff about hosting an exhibition, the reaction was very positive and I have since received a contact email for booking the space. However the price to rent the space is upwards of £300 per day of hosting, which does not seem like a feasible option without fundraising, even with that it poses a challenge.

Due to this issue I have since been in contact with the volunteer comity that run community classes out of the Swansea Ragged School building which is my backup/ second choice for site location. The grade II listed building has a rich history as a school for impoverished children but is now used by various spiritual groups practising alternate healing and psychic abilities i.e clairvoyance, seance and spirit mediums. I will be contacted about the availability of this space on Friday 11th October.