

Student number 2100142

Module: ADAA6000

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

LECTURER, Paul Duerinckx/ Dr. Estefani

Word, 3000-3500

(Video thesis script)

(My voice)

In my project I aim to investigate stories of different artists who express the local Swansea history and heritage. My project proposal documents a true-life artist who collects the history of Swansea and bases his artwork on this history. This is because Swansea history had a significant impact on my life since i started living here in 2015 through visualizing myself as part of Swansea.

i choose to make this project by making deep connections with both the history and this artist. It has given me the platform to consider the credibility of the sources i have used and a base for the experiments of my project. The idea of my project is to be able to understand and demonstrate detailed and systematic knowledge of the subject area i chose.

My project presents different elements that i cover through this time. I explore Swansea history by examining and referring to the local artist Jeff Phillips.

Jeff Phillips is well known artist for telling stories, through his artwork in environmental paintings and his history and heritage artwork. Ref, (Phillips J)

After several years of working in the engineering sector he changed his career to an artist illustrator. Having a good eye for detail, studying and practicing with professional art of materials and gaining a good reputation for his skills, this allowed him to open his first gallery, studio Pegasus opened in 1983 in the uplands area of the city of Swansea, from this, there were 2 other galleries one in oxford street, Swansea and at Swansea's famous indoor market.

In 2000, jeff produced a large portable, educational display that could be used in local schools, exhibitions, festivals, and venues. For this project jeff received a lifelong fellowship from the millennium council of Britain. Since then, he has been working as an artist, illustrator, facilitator, project manager and mentor on many projects with such bodies as the national museum of Wales, national library of Wales, and princes trust. Community first, the consortium, mumbles development trust, the environment Centre and Swansea Mad.

Much of Jeff's work these days still involves working on educational projects, usually by creating large exhibitions on the environment, Swansea history and heritage.

Jeff has become a trustee with Swansea mad and is highly active in supporting and promotion this charity and jeff Phillips scholarship award.

As he continues to work on ideas to be educational and informative, works that can be used to tell stories of our local Swansea history and heritage, now and in the future.

(jeff voice)

I was born in Swansea. At the 89 senone street. I first went to the baleen y Meas school. i was the first pupil to be in Blean y Meas school. I spent most of my childhood at the penlegawed, over the lake and used to take dogs and just disappeared for days and days i get to the woods.

It was a good memory! Jeff said.

(Jeff Phillips) He said, I am a storyteller, and I tell stories through my artwork all the painting i do they have to have the story.

To me the story is particularly important and the environment one of course!

What is happening to the world today with the plastic the oceans and with rain forest and it's just a question of raising an awareness and best way to raising awareness for me to through my artwork.

(He is a professional illustrator and has worked to develop skills as an artist from being a worker in Port Talbot steelworks. Throughout his career he created large exhibitions based on single themes.)

Ref, (Phillips j)

Donna question.

What was the reason that you wanted to cover Margam abbey steel work and port talbot?

Phillips replies,

I had an exhibition a few years ago on mines and miners on the south Wales it was a good exhibition it was exhibited in quite a few places, including the waterfront museum.

I worked in a steel company, i am an apprentice and worked in heavy industry. I can still remember the lines and work and thought that nobody had done a full exhibition on the steel works.

So, i started to do an exhibition on the steel tin plate that I wanted to call it.

It was originally going to be various scenes from different factories, and the different institutions from around the region, different views from just a basic generic temporary steel.

However, "Graham Rowlands' the architect in steel work he saw me approach!

He saw my painting and contacted me to invite me to Margam.

Donna question?

How many times have you been to Margam?

Phillips replies,

I want about three times with the Graham (the architect from Margam) each times take a photograph making notes, doing all sort of work to gather information and get in the feeling of the atmosphere back again, because it took many years since I work inside a steel company. I capture all the industrial and steel work to the future generation and history that is what is it's like inside of steel works.

The series i have painted altogether 14 of them on Margam. When it started there was a rumors about the closing but while I actually carried on working on the painting it was becoming quite obvious of what was going to happen was once that they will shut down the flat furnaces and a couple of painting i have done of the caster, which shut down going back over two months ago. It went back and there was a closure of the actual blast furnaces, expect that last blast furnaces in Margam.

I have captured the actual group. 21to 21 portraits and they were the last people i worked with last year at Margam.

Donna Question to Phillips,

You recently put into a documentary by Andre Van Wyke, Swansea based storyteller.

How did you find out the experience of being interviewed with other people to cover the community of port talbot?

Phillips replies,

It was good to be part of that Andre Van (storyteller) documentary that we filmed in Margam abbey to show the history and steel work. As the story is told, it's important to record that the times go on and this is going to know that era that period now comes into close, it's the end of the industrial revolution in Britain the complete end.

When we are finished there will be no more heavy industries, and it will not be done anymore.

It's always in our minds of course, coming down a few thoughts of fuels also greener also the environment in the long term of course and certainly there is a big drop in pollution levels from the

region. Anyway, since the court governs fluid in Margam, and these things are important that all the community and steel work has been built. It's also sad to see it going but it must work sometime.

Donna question,

What would you be the next thing that you would love to paint now moving forward after all your success and recently to the Qatar festival exhibition? Five awards you won. Ref, <https://qiaf.net/> Qatar international festival event 2024.

Phillips,

I have an idea to work on the construction and the gas fields, that is something i am thinking to make headway on to see if i can get there and do some to record, recite and create a full exhibition to the place and people working there.

Donna introduction,

My name is Donna Phillips's daughter of jeff Phillips, i grew up watching my father make magic out of paint and cover so many important environmental, educational projects over the years with schools, with groups, of elderly people of learning disabilities, from building playgrounds for people with autism. And recently the past few years we been working on projects to cover British steel work Margam abbey particular and cover the closure of the buildings there and my father exhibition has been on to receive great feedback on how important is to documents Swansea history. We have been working together for many years trying to basically put out all the stops on teaching youngsters important of environmental issues and his two 4-5 feet paintings have been showcased across the uk and Wales and recently at the Qatar international art festival, this exhibition in Doha, where we just shown how important it is from 35 years ago when my father first painted the artwork, today and how to keep the water cycle clean and to you concern in relation to endangered species and also cultures. Our plan is moving forward now to hopefully do a lot more work in the future, overseas on an international level. We've been thankful very much to Saba who highlights everything by doing a document on my father's history and his lifetime of work which is 40 years plus.

And we are generally looking forward to 2025.

His work has been exhibited in many places in Swansea representing Swansea history, covering steel work, Dylan Thomas, mines and miners of south Wales and Swansea past, present and future. Recent work of Phillips exhibited at, Elysium gallery, Margam steel abbey, Swansea mad, theatre palace, and Morriston business Hub,

Much of the work has been well presented Swansea history and industrial, environmental work.

Jeff review on the palace theatre building.

Phillips has installed his exhibition of painting in the new palace theatre. The palace has been completed refurbished and wonderful the see the building now been used. Its A fabulous building and all the 13-art works been displayed for public throughout the building.

Morriston business hub 3 exhibited work one is on Margam abbey, other is on Haward and Morfa and third one is on mines and miners.

Another exhibition is a pearl fisher; it tells the story of pearl fishers the history of Qatar. Phillips has also shared the broad connection of this exhibition that is 5 feet long which will be display at the Qatar international festival 2024. Ref, <https://qiaf.net/> (2024)

My voice,

Since the project has started i have developed many opportunities by documenting Jeff Phillips, I was aware of my own uncertainty and the limits of my knowledge. This gave me a focus for my research within the discipline. It has also helped me to demonstrate the growing extent of my knowledge, and my understanding of the concepts associated with the subject area of documenting local history.

The motivation behind making my work is to learn different methods and by knowledge and understanding it that i have learned to review my techniques. Documenting Phillips gives me a chance to enhance my photography skills. I can frame appropriate questions to achieve my vision or to identify a range of real-world situations. Documenting Phillips has helped me build my qualities and transferable skills as a photographer, advancing my existing photography skills. This will enable me to complete each task for my project, taking responsibility for the stories within my work.

The project given me the opportunity to demonstrate my professional skills as a photographer and to be able to approach projects professionally and understand their contexts so I can plan future work. It has helped me see how to employ the networks and connections I must produce more work.

I have learnt much better ways to document and understand the history of Swansea through this project. This includes different experiments I have done with the set task in the process of making my concept clear, and using right techniques, models, and theories.

I was able to gather literature skills, practical skills, knowledge, and intellectual skills. This could only happen by getting inspiration from Bernard Michell. He is a photographer and documents different artists in Swansea and showcases their exhibition and artwork.

Quotes from Mitchell.

“Mitchell believes that it is by relating the internal to the external that an image best expresses the essence of a person. The portraits operate at two levels. Mitchell’s observation of individuals, artists, writers, and musicians is at the same time an exploration of the proximity and distances between them. Each portrait is a self-contained artwork, but when taken together the images amount to more than the sum of their parts. Mitchell sees them as pieces in a jigsaw which, seen as a whole, presents a portrait of the Welsh art world of the last decade of the twentieth century.” Ref, (Mitchell B) (2022).

One of the reasons documenting Phillips is to carry out the challenges as a woman to understand the ability and work I can do for my local community. I can offer most of my time and work to document other artists and provide the achievement of other artists to the residents in Swansea also to enhance the beauty of the city by keeping the history alive by creating the best art, illustrations, and paintings.

My connections with Phillips have been built since I started documenting him and learnt a lot by working on the project to create artifacts and to be innovative and creative.

After documenting Phillips as offers me to document in the future for his current exhibition in Qatar festival and sponsored to photograph his work into the wider platform.

My video Thesis is available on Vimeo and stream Microsoft 365.

The link is below.

Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/1041136193>.

Stream Microsoft 365 video link,

https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/personal/paul_duerinckx_uwtsd_ac_uk/_layouts/15/stream.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fpaul%5Fduerinckx%5Fuwtsd%5Fac%5Fuk%2FDocuments%2FIndependent%20Project%2024%5F25%5FVisual%20Dissertation%20Upload%2Fsaba%2FSeeing%20the%20swansea%20history%20through%20jeff%20phillip%27s%20eye%2Emov&referrer=StreamWebApp%2EWeb&referrerScenario=AddressBarCopied%2Eview%2Ee13036f7%2Dee94%2D4e18%2Dbcf5%2D59a201ec8e32

My research has been developed more by documenting and referencing other artist and find the similar interest as jeff Phillips.

Ceri Thomas,

“Illustrator, covering history of Swansea and exhibiting the story and connection between his life and Swansea history. Thomas is well known and freelance artist, he is fascinated with the history of modern culture and contemporary Wales that over time due to a range of cultural stimuli. His last book ended with launching his last book” shaping art in Wales' he expressed the engagement and connections and mentioned about Swansea history, blitz, and industrial work around the cities.

By researching him my vision has been demolished that each artist has a story with a history that continues in every decade to tell stories of the history and heritage.” Ref, (Thomas C)

2. Bernard Mitchell,

“Bernard Mitchell is a photographer; his exhibition of portraits photography is both retrospective and a report of work in progress. Mitchell project to record local artists in their home and studios started in 1966 but continues as new figures appear. In the rich and diverse Welsh art world of today. The starting project was to document the at artist, writers, painters, poet which also associated with “Dylan Thomas “ Ref, (Thomas D). the poet and a writer then getting experience of photographing Cari Thomas as the freelance artist, art and historian and curator based in south Wales. He was fascinated with the history, art and culture of modern and contemporary Wales

which has developed over time due to the range of cultural stimuli. Mitchell has published his work. The indifferent reaction of the Glyn Vivian gallery in Swansea Mitchell offers to prints for the collection was enough to undermine the self-confidence of the young photographer. Mitchell has continued keeping the work and documenting projects of the artists and made well known contacts in society. Mitchell last work has been showed in 15 march – 5 April 2022 in Swansea at volcano theater with artists in Swansea.” Ref, (Mitchell B).

For my broad research Ater getting information from different platforms and website, such as magnum photos, Wikipedia, BBC, etc i have found one of the famous photographers that has been featured in the Magnum photos magazine, and he touches upon culture and Swansea history.

David Hurn.

“David Hurn is a one of Wales’s most respected photographer artist. Who began his career in 1965.Hurn has spent much of his life creating Welsh life, landscapes and culture, history capturing the essence of Welsh identity. Hurn’s work explores the arguments between people and the land in Wales, making him a key figure in documenting the social history of industrial decline.

Hurn photographs several decades and covers a range of subjects, from Welsh communities to everyday life and rural villages. His work is very important and valuable and displays Welsh heritage and the connection he made throughout his life experiences. Following earlier struggles with connection to his culture, he overcame his weakness by facing challenges and became a prestige member in 1967 of the Magnum Photo Agency with his authentic portrayal of Welsh working-class life, offering a powerful visual record of the social and culture fabric of Wales and history of cities.” Ref, (Hurn D).



Jeff Phillips, at the palace theatre Swansea for installing his artwork for palace theatre launch.

His artwork is still displayed for audience.

Ref, Saba Humayun. (student)



Phillips, his daughter Donna and friend for his documentary video title (SHIFT) 16 November 2024 at the old officers' club, port talbot.

Ref, (saba Humayun (student) at the event.)



Phillips at the art festival in Qatar for his exhibition.

Ref, (photo at the Qatar international festival event with other artists and guest).



Phillips documentary film(shift) image at the port talbot city.

Ref, photo taken by saba humayun at port talbot for documentary film(swift) featuring by Andre Wyke Swansea based storyteller.2024).



Phillips' work is installing at the palace just before the launch.

Ref, (Photo taken by saba humayun student at the palace theatre (Swansea) for the launch event).



Phillips at the business Morriston hub installing his three famous exhibitions.

Ref, photo taken by saba humayun(student) at the business Morriston hub for the exhibition display.

All the picture and i have gathered by documenting jeff Philips and they are linking together, some have been taken to the business Morriston hub at the installation, jeff documentary film by the storyteller, palace theatre, Swansea history, pearl fishers' exhibition at Qatar. They are all the testimony for my project, which allows me to create a genuine and great documentary to present his artist life story through history and culture perspective.

Bibliography,

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Hurn Accessed: (19/12/ 2024) &
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Humayun S (*saba Humayun*) . Video thesis script video link available at,
<https://vimeo.com/1041136193>.

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Thomas C (2014) *Ceri Thomas in his time*.
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at;<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/dylan-thomas> (Accessed:16/12/24).

Figure 1. Humayun S. (04/11/2024) palace theatre. Available at; (personal drive folder)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/167-GBXXjKncvpwPVkp-yCevwhk0BFUIG>

Figure 2. Humayun S. (07/11/2024) port Talbot (documentary film shift) available at:
(Facebook).

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/191fE8aFBr/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Figure 3. (Qatar festival) Dec 2024. Available at: Facebook and LinkedIn
(LinkedIn) https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wales-in-middle-east-%26-north-africa-mena- wales-world-renowned-artist-illustrator-activity-7267850337699459072-xAvv?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAE4ZIUIBAKKcesy_wophzuGLwMMCM03fS4w&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=copy_link ,
(Facebook), <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Erz85hZH8/?mibextid=wwXlfr> (30/11/2024).

Figure 4. Humayun S. 2024 film screening (shift) available at, (Facebook).

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/184uKitjNH/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Figure 5. Humayun S. 17/12/2024 palace theatre launch and exhibition. Available at,

(Facebook). <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16CWincLyh/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Figure 6. Humayun S. 19/12/2024 business Morriston Hub exhibition displays of jeff.

Available at, (Facebook).

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1YTRXEYFvX/?mibextid=wwXlfr>