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I have chosen the name “Elsewhere” for the exhibition that I will be curating. The exhibition will be centred around fantasy and surrealist art, with the overall idea and tone for the exhibition being inspired by the concept of surrealism being able to evoke “a dream-like state not unlike our unconscious stream of thoughts” (Jacobs, 2015), as well as the ability of fantasy to “deepen our immersion and offload a little excess subjectivity” (DeLeonard, 2016.) The theme of my exhibition will be escapism, spending a moment to put the rest of the world out of your mind and silently, peacefully contemplating art depicting fantastical scenes and surreal figures and landscapes.

The location I have decided on for the exhibition is the town hall of my home town of Maesteg (pictured below in figure one).



Figure One

I have chosen this location because of the otherworldly and strange feeling I had when visiting the hall throughout my life, due to old faded paintings hung high on the walls and the gigantic curtains draping down. The building is very old, which will help to give the exhibition a sense of stepping into another world, as one of the reasons many people are fond of old buildings is because of their ability to “speak to us of another time” (Davies, 2011). The hall is darkly colored, mainly dark brown, dark red and faded gold, so the more colourful pieces of art will stand out against and the darker pieces will fit quite well.

The size of the hall has also played a part in my decision to hold this theoretical exhibition there. The ceiling is very high, and the hall is overall relatively large, meaning each piece of art will have enough room to stand out. As for how each visitor will react to the scale of the room, a large space can “be inspiring or disquietingly vast” (Teknion, 2017). This means that some visitors may find the large space uncomfortable, which may hinder the sense of escapism that I was going for, but I think how well the atmosphere of the hall fits the exhibition will outweigh this potential negative.

In an attempt to further the feeling of peace and escapism in the exhibition, only one person at a time will be allowed to enter. This will mean each visitor will view the gallery in silence. Silence increases focus and cognition, and allows your body to relax (Health Essentials from Cleveland Clinic, 2020), which will allow visitors to appreciate the artwork and achieve a feeling of escapism for a moment, but having more than one person viewing the exhibition will distract from the atmosphere and the art. I want the experience to just be the viewer and the artwork, no unnecessary noise or other distractions. The quietness of the exhibition will, I hope, magnify the effectiveness of fantasy and surreal art in “joining the real and the unreal together” (Albizu73, 2020). Being in silence can also enhance the feeling of being ‘elsewhere’, as we are so used to being around lots of various noises that being somewhere silent might be a very alien experience.

The exhibition will be split in two. One side of the hall will feature the fantasy artists, the other will feature the surreal artists, and at the end of the hall on the stage will be the artist who is both a fantasy and surreal artist.

The two fantasy artists I have chosen are Anato Finnstark and Kentaro Miura. The first artist whose work the visitors to the exhibition will see is Anato Finnstark, a french artist specializing in the fantasy genre. His colour palette varies from vibrant colours to duller colours, so I chose three pieces of his work that were more colourful as they would be the first thing visitors will see and brighter colours tend to elicit more positive emotions such as peace (associated with the colour blue), and spirituality (associated with the colour purple) (London Image Institute, 2020). These feelings are suited for what I am aiming for with this exhibition.

The pieces I have chosen by Finnstark are shown in figure two, figure three, and figure four.



Figure Two



Figure Three



Figure Four

Kentaro Miura is a Japanese artist, known for writing and illustrating the manga series *Berserk*, who has gained wide popularity and renown for his extremely detailed black and white art style. His art will be the second that visitors will see. I chose to place Kentaro's work second because his style is very gritty and sometimes challenging, so I wanted visitors to first see something a bit lighter. Kentaro has a very striking style, and has produced some of the best fantasy artwork in the history of the genre, so I had to include his work in the exhibition. The pieces that I have chosen are shown in figure five, figure six, and figure seven.



Figure Five



Figure Six



Figure Seven

These pieces of work will be displayed on the left wall. The entrance into the town hall is positioned in a way that anyone entering will be facing the left wall, so since I want visitors to first see the work of Anato Finnstark, I placed the fantasy work on the left wall. Below is a bird's eye view of the hall shown in figure eight, and below it in figure nine is a representation of what viewers will see when they enter. I have laid out the exhibition to almost seem like a small journey from pure fantasy to a strange version of reality, surreality.

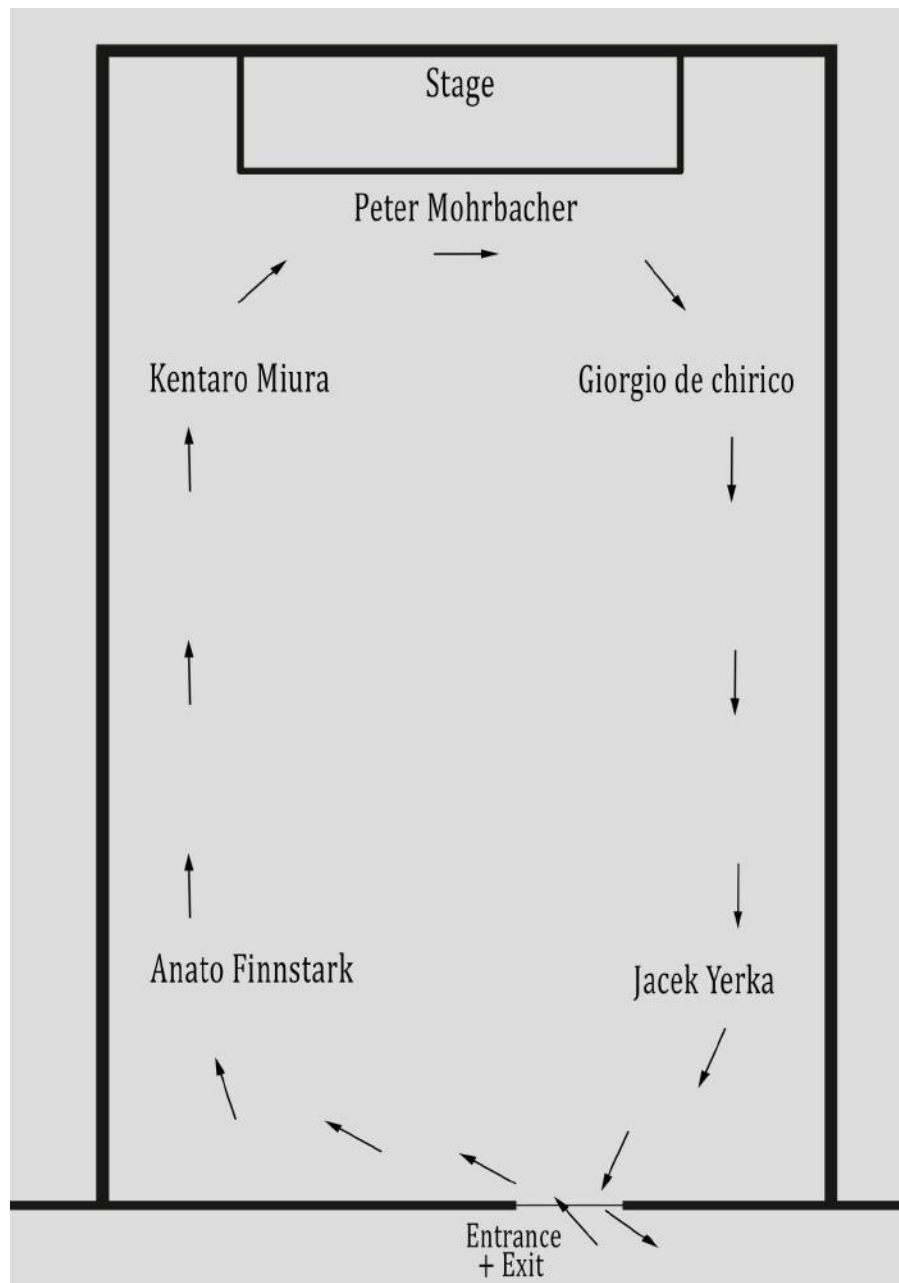


Figure Eight

Right Wall- Fantasy Artists

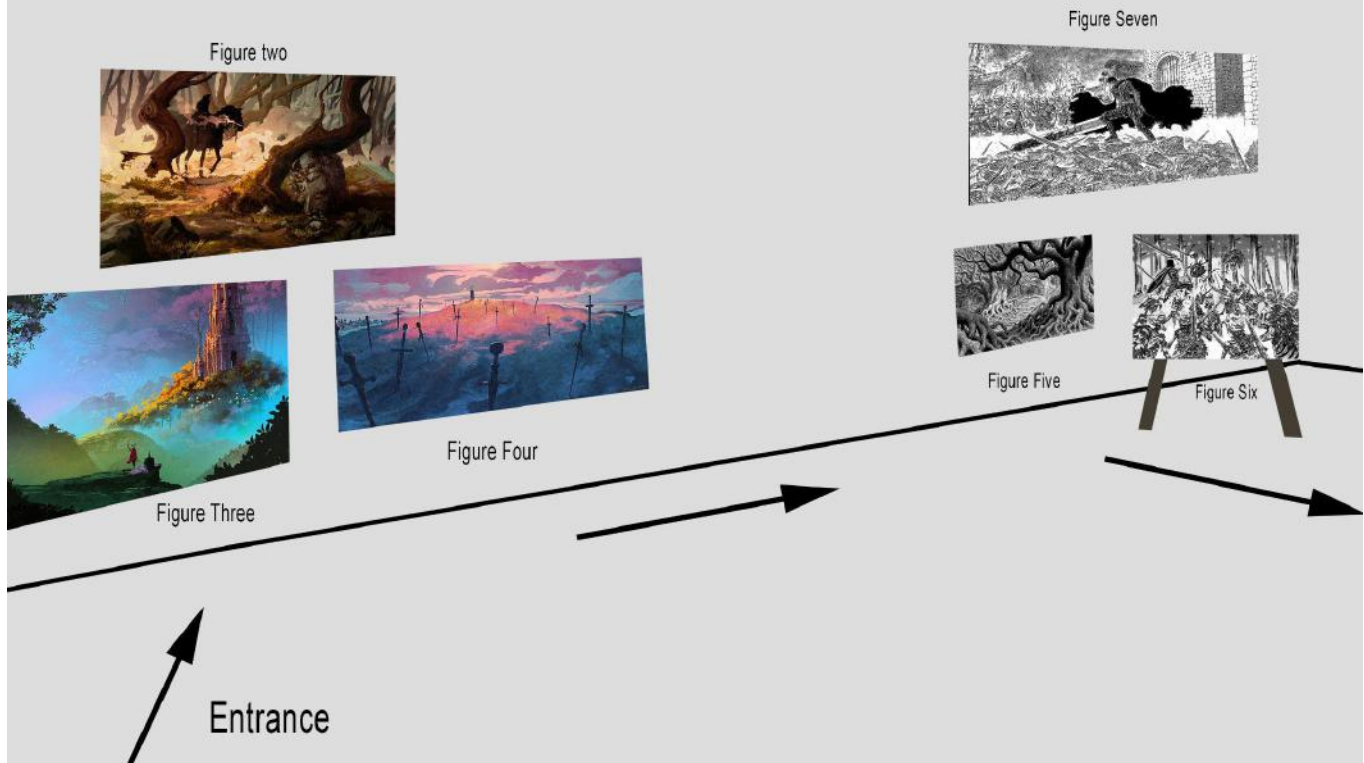


Figure Nine

While It is possible that visitors will view the art in any order they want, by placing the more vibrant art of Anato Finnstark next to the gritty black and white art of Kintaro Miura I hope that the contrast between the two styles of art will draw the eye of the viewer to from left to right, instead of the art blending together in the viewer's peripheral vision resulting in them going immediately to the next wall. The theme does not necessarily require the artwork to be viewed in a particular order, so taking a more subtle approach to guiding visitors through the exhibition does not compromise the overall objective.

On the stage at the end of the hall, the art of Peter Mohrbacher will be displayed. Peter Mohbracher is an American artist whose style is a combination of both fantasy and surrealism, so I placed his art in between both the fantasy and surrealist art to create more of a flowing theme in the exhibition and a stronger relation between the two, as while the genres of fantasy and surrealism share many traits the key distinction is "Fantasy is about magic; surrealism is about dreams and dream-states." (Albizu73, 2020). The work of Mohrbacher that I have chosen for the exhibition are shown in figure ten, figure eleven, and figure twelve, and the stage display is shown in figure thirteen.



Figure Ten



Figure Eleven



Figure Twelve

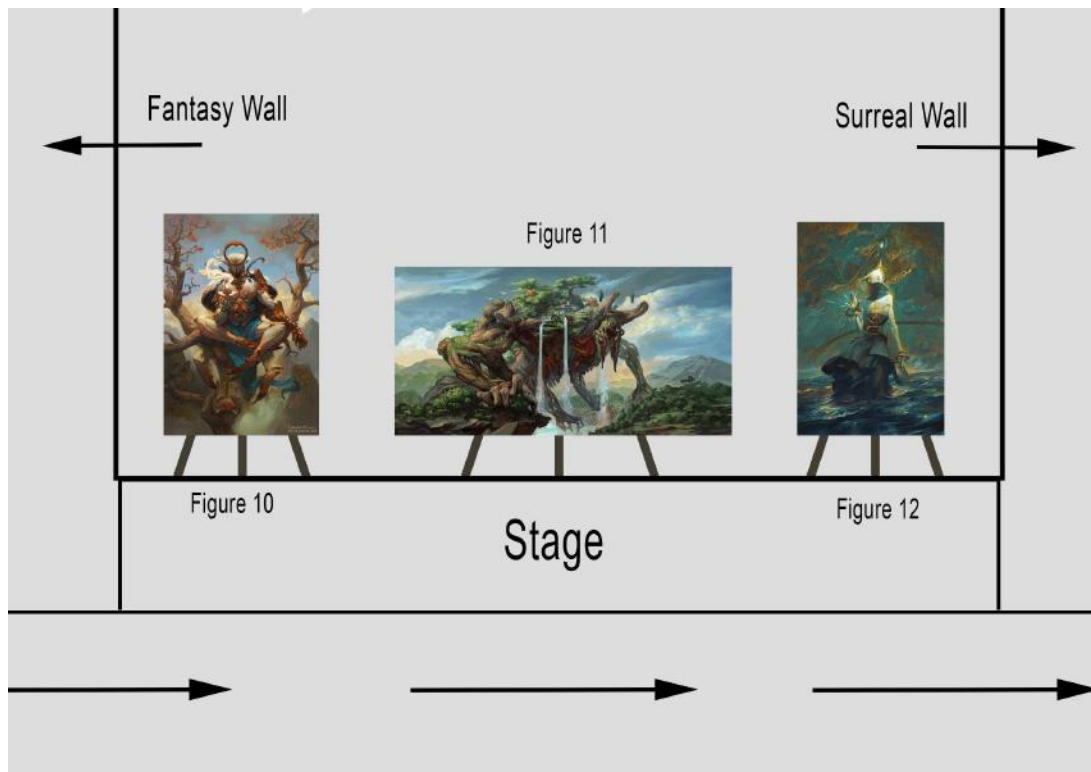


Figure Thirteen

The exhibition comes to an end with the surrealist artwork. I wanted visitors to see the surreal artwork last because surreal artwork is more out-there while fantasy can be more grounded, so starting with the fantasy art may ease visitors into the exhibition with art that is more 'normal'. The first surrealist artist I have chosen is Giorgio De Chirico, an Italian artist active during the late 1800's and early 1900's. He painted many landscapes and primarily utilized colours such as orange, yellow, black, white, and red, and makes use of shadows frequently in his work. His use of colour and shadow can give the viewer of his work "a sense of solitude." (Coutts, N.D). This theme of solitude is well suited for my exhibition, as I want to give visitors a sense of there being nothing but them and the art for the time that they spend at the exhibition. The Giorgio De Chirico pieces I have chosen for the exhibition are shown in figure eleven, figure twelve, and figure thirteen.



Figure Fourteen

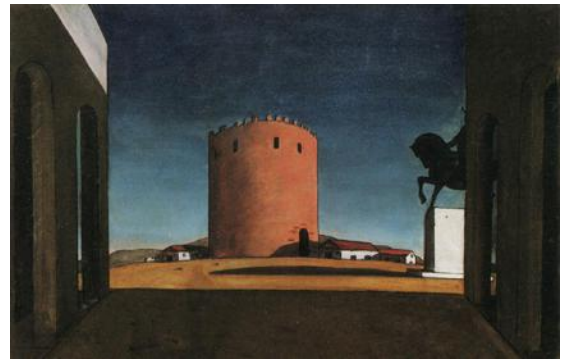


Figure Fifteen



Figure Sixteen

The second surrealist artist I have chosen is Jacek Yerka, an artist from Poland. Jacek frequently features buildings in his work, usually in odd places or positions. I chose The work of Jacek because I found that the architecture of the buildings in the work of Jacek reminded me of our town hall, and so thought it would create something of a subtle link between the art and where the art is being exhibited, in this case the town hall. I also chose this artist because of how Jacek takes the familiar and blends it with the odd and dream-like, creating something that is both recognisable but different and new, an uncommon combination that suits the overall theme of the exhibition. The works of Jacek Yerka that I have chosen are shown in figure fourteen, figure fifteen, and figure sixteen.



Figure Seventeen



Figure Eighteen

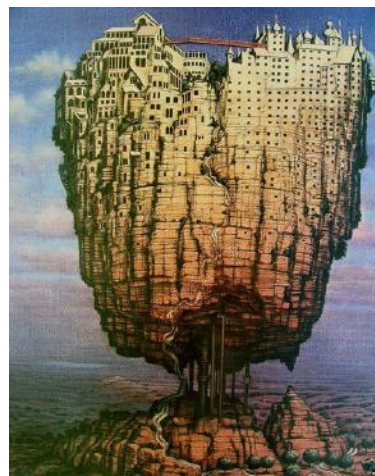


Figure Nineteen

I have tried to curate this theoretical exhibition in such a way that each element- space, location, and art- work in conjunction to create the desired experience and theme for the exhibition. I have aimed for an overall theme of escapism, commonly associated with fantasy but not often with surrealism, but the similarities of the genres has allowed me to incorporate both.

It is my intention for visitors to experience, for a brief time, a sense of detachment from the world, immersing themselves in the odd and fantastical.

Figures

- Figure One- <https://twitter.com/maestegtownhal>
- Figure Two- <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/8585055527613789/>
- Figure Three- <https://www.wallpaperflare.com/anato-finnstark-landscape-wallpaper-ysaid>
- Figure Four- <https://imgur.com/r/berserk/L8WLMLC>

- Figure Five- <https://twitter.com/VideoArtGame/status/1321937861571235841>
- Figure Six- <https://hyperboreanchaos.tumblr.com/post/151934253205/berserk-by-kentaro-miura>
- Figure Seven- <https://www.wallpaperflare.com/search?wallpaper=guts+berserk+kentaro+miura>
- Figure Ten- <https://twitter.com/bugmeyer/status/1278377322626809858>
- Figure Eleven- <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/heart-of-the-world-peter-mohrbacher.html?product=poster>
- Figure Twelve- <https://scene360.com/art/93607/peter-mohrbacher/>
- Figure Fourteen- <https://tarnmoor.com/2018/11/18/giorgio-di-chirico-surrealist-painter/>
- Figure Fifteen- <https://psmag.com/social-justice/oddly-reassuring-quality-surrealistic-art-98559>
- Figure Sixteen- <https://galleryintell.com/artex/mystery-melancholy-street-giorgio-de-chirico/>
- Figure Seventeen- <http://nicholasjv.blogspot.com/2012/12/art-sunday-jacek-yerka.html>
- Figure Eighteen- <http://avax.news/pictures/69003>
- Figure Nineteen- <http://tadeo-art.pl/index.php?id=21&ID=1220>

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