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STUDENT NUMBER : 1901762

YR 1 PHOTOGRAPHY , DOCUMENTARY

LECTURER : RYAN MOULE

My exhibition is entitled "Resistance". It is set in a natural environment, a cave. Specifically , a cave in neath waterfalls. The cave is extremely spacious and tall which welcomes sculptures and pieces of art of all shapes and sizes. My exhibition narrates 'The Allegory Of Plato's Cave', so I thought using a real natural void was necessary for setting the scene. This exhibition describes a harsh representation of society and how many are tuned in to the illusions of their minds , seeing just the shadows of the world. This exhibition on 'The Allegory Of Plato's Cave' explores what reality really is and our resistance to fear.

Plato's theory is about prisoners chained up in a cave who can only perceive the outside world by shadows that show on the cave wall. These prisoners believe what they see is the truth of reality and when given the chance to leave, don't want to believe in the truth. "fake humans will generate fake realities and then sell them to other humans, turning them, eventually, into forgeries of themselves" . (Philip K. Dick).



Above is an image I took upon a research trip. In Plato's theory, the cave shows the prisoners trapped in 'a cave of misconception'.

I intend to bring four artists together and feature their work in my natural space. Through extensive research, I believe each of my chosen artist's pieces represent my theme and vision for the exhibition. Each piece of work placed in the exhibition will represent a segment of 'Plato's Cave', specifically how I personally view the allegory.

In the centre of the cave, I plan to position 'Tableau-clous' (2013 by Bernard Aubertin). This piece's medium consists of acrylic paint and the use of metal nails on wood. This piece is famous for it being set on fire when exhibited. Spectators watch as the artist himself lights his art with fire, rapidly covering the wood with a vibrant light of red. This piece of art will represent the 'fire' in 'The Allegory Of Plato's Cave'.

Bernard Aubertin uses fire to express a manifestation of his colour red used to paint over his wood canvas and nails. I felt this was an interesting reason to use this piece in

my exhibition, as I am expressing an important subject of the allegory, fire through his piece.

FIG ONE



Due to this exhibition being in a natural void, I would struggle to professionally hang Bernard Aubertin's piece up, especially with my idea of having the piece be lit up on fire.

My idea for exhibiting this piece is to build a large pyrex glass box around it, this way the piece can be set alight safely, allowing spectators to watch on the other side of the box. This specific glass can withstand high temperatures.

Displayed on right of the cave walls will be 'In real life' by Olafur Eliasson. Due to the caves natural contrast, it's a perfect lighting to display a projection. "Reflections and shadows play with the way we perceive and interact with the world" (Olafur Eliasson, Tate modern) . This projection piece by Olafur Eliasson could represent the 'shadows' from the allegory. The shadows are an illusion about reality. However in contrast to this

, you could view this as yourself, not willing to experience what's beyond the cave. It could be seen as a forced reality.

FIG TWO



On the opposite side to the previous piece of work , will be several prints by Francesco Ciccolella from his solo exhibition 'Alternative Realities'. His prints “explores how we see our environment, each other and ultimately ourselves” (Francesco Ciccolella, 2017). These prints will be presented on easels instead of hung on the cave walls to protect the prints from possible damage. The prints as a collective are composed of idea's of fake news and alternative facts.

I felt these prints were an interesting add for the exhibition due to their relevance to exploring reality and a semiotic approach to how we perceive our surroundings. His use of symbols and visual metaphors allow the viewer to relate to the banality. The artist explores how we perceive everything around us which links strongly to Plato's theory.

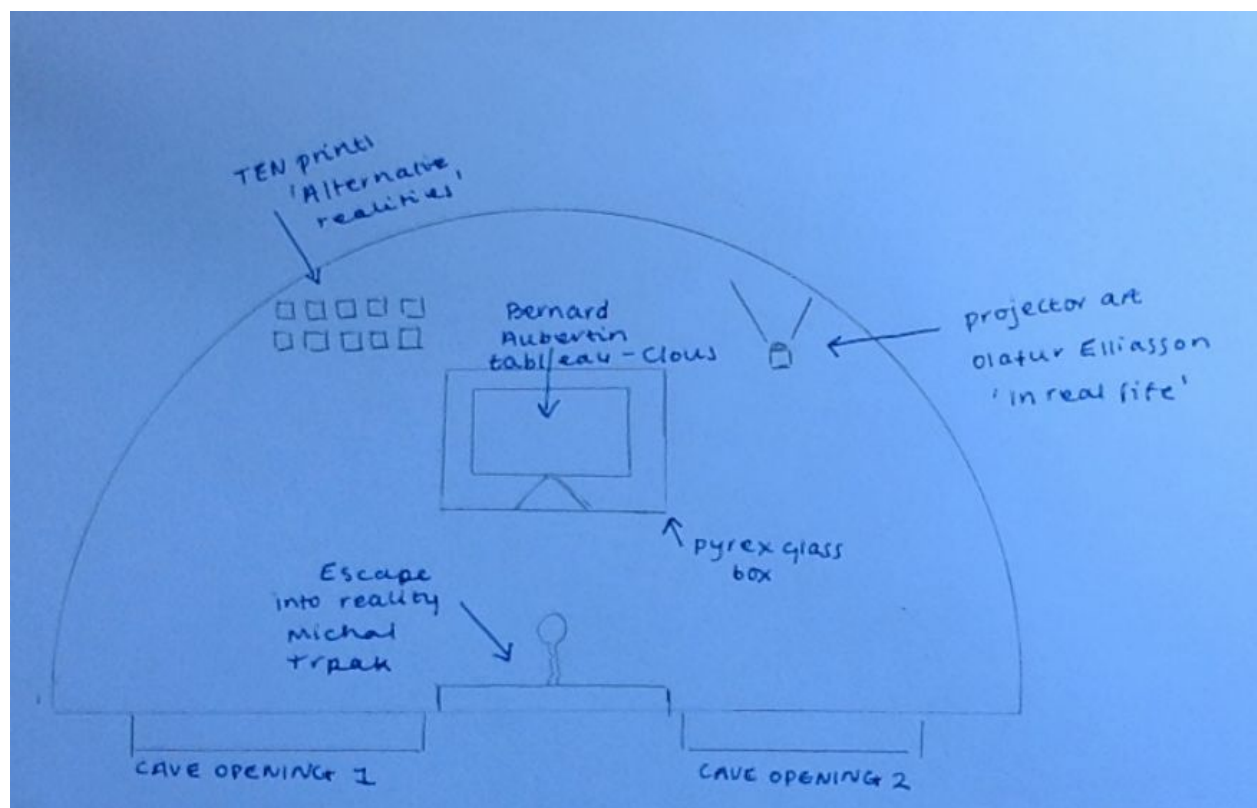
The theory makes us question our own reality. The prints make us question for example, the media we consume and wonder if we are being socialised into thinking a certain way. To interrelate this to Plato's theory, the prisoners are being fed these images of the shadows over time and are slowly socialised into having the same views as each other.

FIG THREE



The next piece I intend to place in the exhibition is called 'Escape into reality' by Michel Trpak. It is a mix of a painting and sculpture form. This interesting mix of mediums play with depth and dimension. This piece will represent the prisoner in Plato's Cave who is unsatisfied with their life and wants clarity and truth. This piece will be placed in between the two cave entrances so that the painting of this piece can rest on the cave wall.

FIG FOUR



Figures

Figure 1 : Bernard Aubertin (2013) <https://www.wikiart.org/en/bernard-aubertin>

Figure 2 : Olafur Eliasson (In real life, 2019)
<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/olafur-eliasson>

Figure 3 : Francesco Ciccolella (alternative realities , 2017)
<https://www.creativeboom.com/inspiration/alternate-realities-is-an-illustration-series-that-looks-at-fake-news-and-alternative-facts/>

Figure four - floor plan

Bibliology

Philip K. Dick - Boston review - political forum

Olafur Eliasson (2019) Tate modern

Francesco Ciccolella (2017) - 'Creativeboom' website

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/03/23/plato-allegory-of-the-cave-ted-ed/>

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<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/olafur-eliasson>

<https://www.francescociccolella.com/>

<http://www.artnet.com/artists/bernard-aubertin/>