

Student's full name: Alicia O'Connor

Student ID: 2004164

BA Course Title: BA in Arts: Fine Art - Studio Site & Context

Module: ADAD4019 Ways of Perceiving

Tutor's name: Ryan L. Moule

Tasks in the order I received them:

Task 1: Expression and Suppression (Exhibition Writing) = **1500 Words**

Expression and Suppression

The theme of the exhibition is Expression and Suppression.

The exhibition is about how the society views and acts on expression and suppression. The exhibition will be split into half. One half represents expression, the other suppression. The expression area will contain all artwork relevant to expression whereas the suppression area will be filled with nothing. Expression can contain a whole range of different things along the lines of expressing feelings, ideas and controversial opinions.

Some of these controversial topics are about the covid-19 vaccine (online debates about if it is safe to get), Megan Markle & Prince Harry departure from the Royal family (the public are either against Megan Markle or The Royal Family, a YouTube video talks about how the public either love or hate Megan Markle called *Love or Loathe*), wearing mask debates (half of the public questions if wearing masks help prevent you or others from getting covid-19) and the protests about Sarah Everard's death (all women are advised how to dress, behave and to be aware but nonetheless have a high chance of getting sexually abused and killed by males, online debates on all social media with hashtags #NotAllMen and #SarahEverard). At this moment in time, so many people express their emotions and thoughts but sometimes it gets violent or personal.

The expression area will display various colours in separate rooms representing conflicting ideas, feelings and perspectives. Each area in the expression half will exhibit lots of artwork. The suppression area will be filled with nothing to present visibly how suppression reveals no information about anything. This is as suppression represents how opinions or emotions are hidden instead of being revealed. The Suppression area will be covered in monochrome colours except for the floor (which is the same colour as the expression area of the exhibition).

The floor colour is the same in both expression and suppression areas to represent the acknowledgement of the world that this exists. The areas of expression and suppression layout are mirrored to each other (the line of symmetry is in the middle of the whole exhibition heading towards the main door the entrance/exit). Near the entrance/exit will have on each side a dictionary definition of each word that applies to each area (definition of expression on the expression side, the suppression definition on the suppression side).

This exhibition will contain Pablo Picasso's *The Old Guitarist*, Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, Jackson Pollock's *Number 1, 1950 (lavender Mist)*, Rene Magritte's *The False Mirror* and *The Double Secret*, Roy Lichtenstein's *Happy Tears*, Yayoi Kusama's *Dots Obsession* and Edward Hopper's *Morning Sun* (1952).

I have intentionally chosen these artworks to be displayed in the exhibition space that will represent expression. I have chosen these artworks because I genuinely feel that each one expresses something. Most of these chosen artworks express emotions and opinions on different subject matters (some are controversial, some are not).

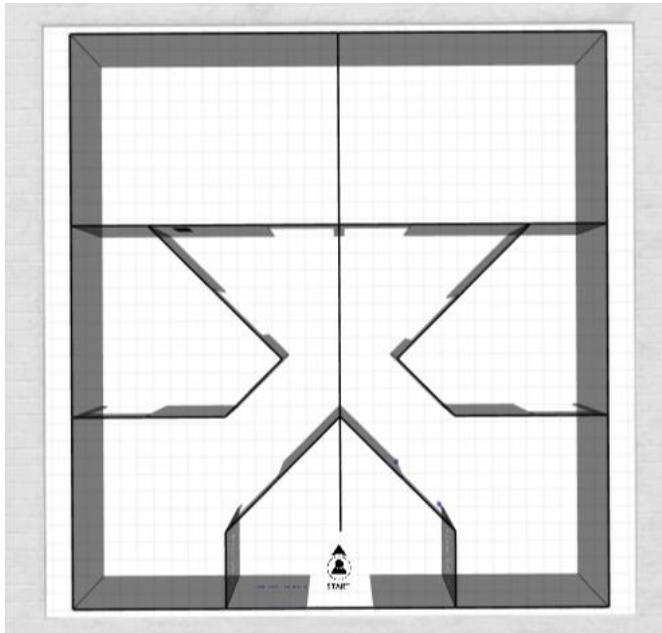


Fig 1. Screenshot of planning exhibition.

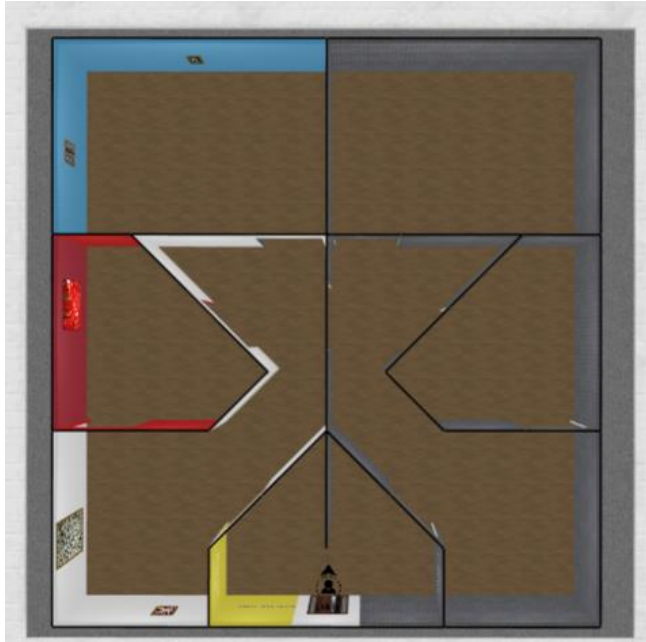


Fig 2. Screenshot of my exhibition space.

This is the link to my Expression & Suppression exhibition that can be viewed online
<https://www.artsteps.com/embed/602b9b72e848cb1ce13782df/560/315>

The left side of the exhibition will be representing expression. The other half of the exhibition space will represent suppression.

This is an image of the chosen exhibition space from a plan view.

MORE DETAIL OF ARTWORKS/ARTISTS FOR WHY I CHOSE THEM:

The Old Guitarist by Pablo Picasso



Fig 3. *The Old Guitarist* by Pablo Picasso, 1903 –1904.
Oil on panel 122.9 cm × 82.6 cm (48.4 in × 32.5 in).

This artwork is an oil painting by Pablo Picasso named *The Old Guitarist* will be exhibited in the Expression space. This is because this was painted during the challenging time that Picasso was destitute (*The Old Guitarist*, Wikipedia).

The Scream by Edvard Munch

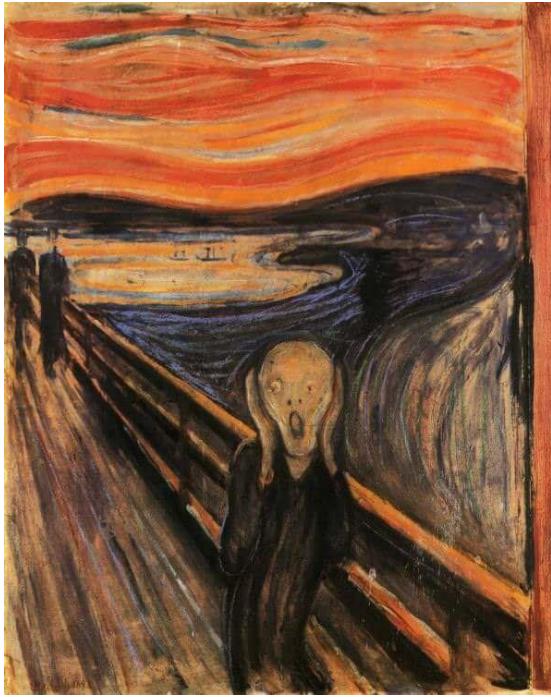


Fig 4. *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, 1893. Oil, tempera, pastel and crayon on cardboard. 91 cm × 73.5 cm (36 in × 28.9 in).

This artwork by Edward Munch called *The Scream* will be included in the Expression area because it expresses how anxiety feels like (anxiety is one of the types of mental illnesses, therefore this artwork expresses emotions of anxiety). Despite this artwork not being detailed, it still draws you in with the use of lines. The lines make it seem like there are gaps in the artwork that lead to something or somewhere else such as an escape. So, this artwork that can cause a feeling of distress to the viewer can also give the viewer the feeling of relief with the thought of something behind those lines (even though the viewer knows this is a 2D artwork). The contrasting colours also help take part of making the viewer feel uncomfortable as different colours represent different emotions and it is all mixed together creating mixed feelings.

Number 1, 1950 (lavender mist) by Jackson Pollock



Fig 5. *Number 1, 1950 (lavender mist)* by Jackson Pollock, 1950. Enamel, oil and aluminium on canvas. 221 x 299.7 cm (87 x 118 in)

This artwork will be exhibited in the Expression area because this drip painting expresses built up anger and depression. This artwork either causes the viewer to feel ill at ease or deep understanding.

As mentioned in Great Modern Artists A – Z, “Jackson Pollock’s physical and mental health worsened. This was visibly recognized by the public due to the increased use of black paint over time and with the return of Jungian symbols and archetypes” (Great Modern Artists A - Z, Jackson Pollock).

The extraordinary thing about this artwork is that some viewers see faces in many of Pollock's artworks and other viewers do not. The faces that are seen by a few of the viewers are angry, sinister or sad.

"Jackson Pollock was always short on money, so he had to rely on exchanging art for groceries at the nearby general store" (National Gallery of Art. *Number 1, 1950, Lavender Mist*).

The False Mirror by Rene Magritte



Fig 6. *The False Mirror* by Rene Magritte, 1929. Oil on canvas. 21 1/4 x 31 7/8" (54 x 80.9 cm)

This artwork plays with the idea of optimism by visually expressing how optimism is seen. So, this idea is suggested with the image of the clouds and the cornflower blue sky that has replaced the iris. This would be similar to seeing a glass filled half of water and thinking of the glass of water either half empty or half full. This artwork shows also how optimistic people are blinded by the good and see only the good things in life but are almost in denial about the bad things when living in their dreamworld instead of reality. Hence, this artwork will also be displayed in the Expression space.

The Double Secret by Rene Magritte



Fig 7. *The Double Secret* by Rene Magritte, 1927. Oil on canvas. 114 x 162cm

This artwork will be displayed in the Expression area. My reason for this is because this artwork expresses the idea of how someone can look normal on the outside but on the inside is completely different. This could be hidden emotions, disabilities and other types of mental health.

This idea is strongly suggested the fact the face that has been torn off (the person doesn't recognise themselves anymore, they would feel that they are a stranger to themselves) and the inside of the person with (which could be) bells and either melted plastic.

Happy Tears by Roy Lichtenstein



Fig 8. *Happy Tears* by Roy Lichtenstein, 1964. 96.5 cm × 96.5 cm (38 in × 38 in).

This pop art strongly indicates (as suggested also by the title of this artwork) that the feeling of happiness can be shown in different ways. This artwork also suggest that a person doesn't have to be sad to cry. This actively demonstrates that this artwork should (and will) be presented in the expression area.

Dots Obsession by Yayoi Kusama



Fig 9. Dots Obsession by Yayoi Kusama, 2007

Yayoi Kusama expressed in this artwork (and many of her other artworks) her experience of mental illness. Therefore, these sculptures will be part of the Expression area.

These sculptures show an extreme amount of polka dots was is also suggested by the title of this artwork (these sculptures), Dots Obsession, to show Kusama's obsession with dots, due to her mental illness.

Morning Sun by Edward Hopper



Fig 10. Morning Sun by Edward Hopper, 1952. Oil paint. 101.98 x 71.5 cm

This artwork indicates how reality really is. There is a female sitting on the bed in a room with bare walls looking out the window to show she doesn't have much but she still remains hopeful by looking out the window. This is suggested as she is leaning towards the window as if she sees something interesting to her that us, the viewer, cannot see what it is she is looking at. She is also hugging her legs to show she feels sad but almost reassuring herself that everything will get better.

This artwork will be included in the Expression space.

Bibliography

Penn Medicine, *Covid-19 Vaccines Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* [online] <https://www.pennmedicine.org/coronavirus/vaccine/vaccine-faqs> [accessed 16 April 2021]

M. Roberts, BBC News. *How Do We Know Covid 19 vaccines are safe?* 28/03/21 [online] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-55056016> [Accessed 16 April 2021]

Love or Loathe, 08/01/20 [online] <https://youtu.be/nIC5znWxZt4> [Accessed 16 April 2021]

Express, *Prince Harry and Megan Markle snubbed over offer to advise Royal Family*, 29/3/21 [online] <https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1416007/Prince-Harry-Meghan-Markle-Queen-latest-Sussexes-Royal-Family-news-vn> [Accessed 16 April 2021]

Sky News, "There is no evidence that general wearing of face masks by the public who are well stops the spread of COVID-19... what matters right now is social distancing" - Jonathan Van Tam, the deputy chief medical officer, 03/04/20 [online]
<https://twitter.com/skynews/status/1246118997004824576?lang=en>
[Accessed 16 April 2021]

Daily Mail, Sarah Everard – News And Updates [online]
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/sarah-everard/index.html> [Accessed 16 April 2021]

En.wikipedia.org. *The Old Guitarist* - Wikipedia. [online]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_Guitarist [Accessed 17 April 2021].

En.wikipedia.org. *The Scream* – Wikipedia. [online]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scream [Accessed 17 April 2021]

Nga.gov. *Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)*. [online]
<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.55819.html> [Accessed 17 April 2021].

Masters, C. and Tuohy, A. (2015), *A-Z great modern artists*. Great Britain: Cassell. Page 106 & 160

MoMa.org. *The False Mirror* by Rene Magritte [online]
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/78938> [Accessed 19 April 2021]

Google Arts & Culture. *The Double Secret - René Magritte (1898-1967) and France, Paris, Centre Pompidou - Musée national d'art moderne* © ADAGP, Paris 2018 - Google Arts & Culture. [online]
<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/the-double-secret-ren%C3%A9-magritte-1898-1967/eQFgbwECO7whdw> [Accessed 19 April 2021].

En.wikipedia.org. *Happy Tears* (Lichtenstein). [online]
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Tears_\(Lichtenstein\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Tears_(Lichtenstein)) [Accessed 19 April 2021]

www.wikiart.org. *Morning Sun, 1952* - Edward Hopper - WikiArt.org. [online]
<https://www.wikiart.org/en/edward-hopper/morning-sun> [Accessed 19 April 2021].

List of Figures

Fig 1. Screenshot of exhibition space layout

Fig 2. Screenshot of exhibition space

Fig 3. The Old Guitarist, Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_Guitarist

Fig 4. The Scream, Edvard Munch.org <https://www.edvardmunch.org/the-scream.jsp>

Fig 5. Jackson-pollock.org. *Number One, 1950 by Jackson Pollock*.
<https://www.jackson-pollock.org/number-one.jsp>

Fig 6. MoMa.org. *The False Mirror by Rene Magritte*
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/78938>

Fig 7. (The Double Secret - René Magritte (1898-1967) and France, Paris, Centre Pompidou - Musée national d'art moderne © ADAGP, Paris 2018 - Google Arts & Culture) <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/the-double-secret-ren%C3%A9-magritte-1898-1967/eQFgbwECO7whdw>

Fig 8. En.wikipedia.org. Happy Tears (Lichtenstein).
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Tears_\(Lichtenstein\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Tears_(Lichtenstein))

Fig 9. Play.qagoma.qld.gov.au. n.d. *Dots Obsession*.
<https://play.qagoma.qld.gov.au/looknowseeforever/works/dots/>

Fig 10. www.wikiart.org. n.d. *Morning Sun, 1952 - Edward Hopper* - WikiArt.org. <https://www.wikiart.org/en/edward-hopper/morning-sun>