

Report: Site-Specific Exhibition

Name: Adam Ellis

Site Specific Exhibition Title: Atmosphaera

Rationale

- Clearly articulate why the chosen site is meaningful. What historical, cultural, or social importance does it hold? How do these attributes align with the conceptual framework of your work?
- Conceptual/Contextual Ideas: Discuss your group and individual interpretations of the broader themes your exhibition explores, such as identity, memory, community etc.

Meaning of the Site:

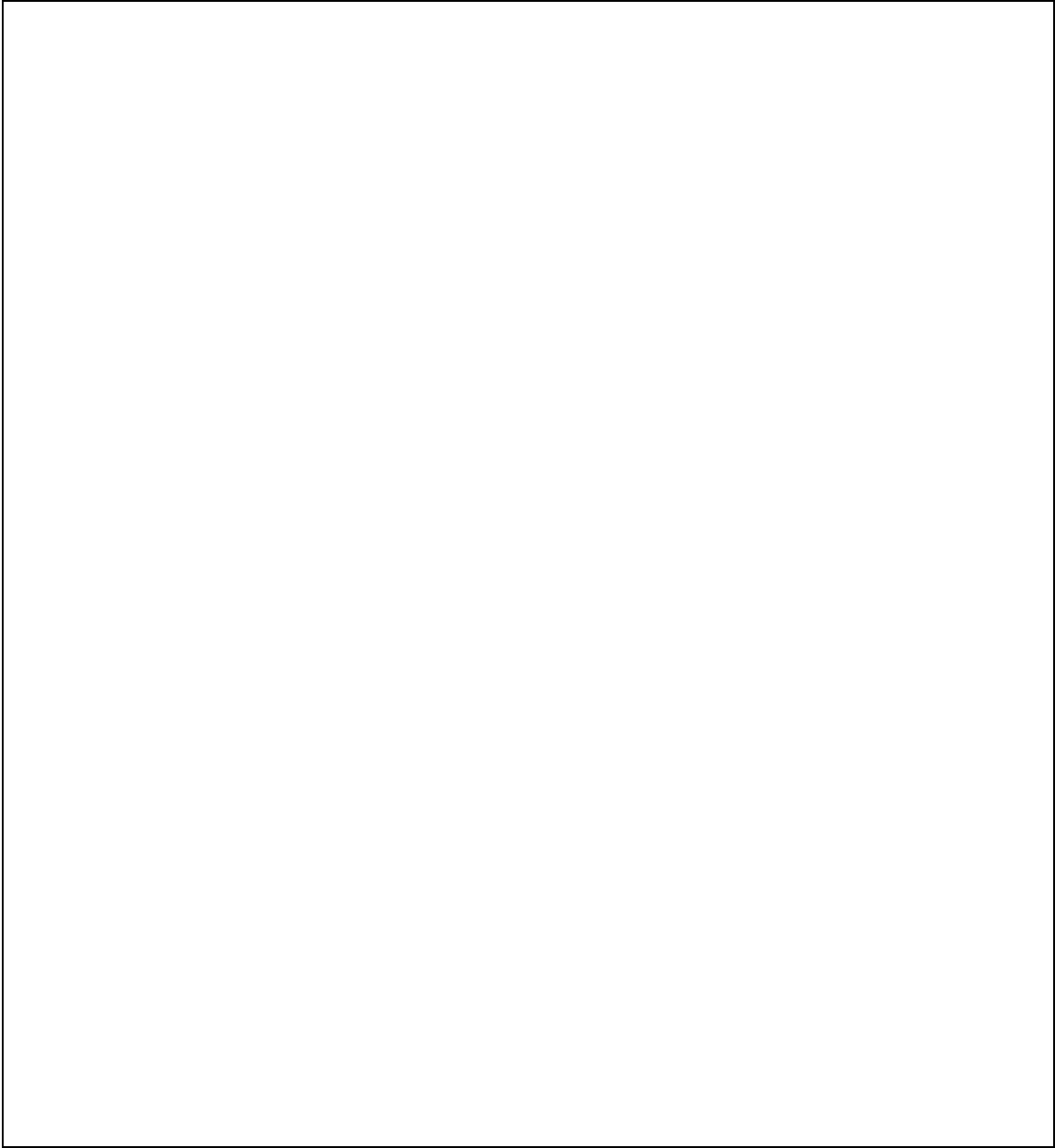
St. Mary's Church holds significant historical value, not only to the current community but to Swansea as a whole. A church has stood on the site since 1328, erected by Henry de Gower, Bishop of Saint David's. In 1739, one Sunday morning, the roof of the nave collapsed while the congregation was waiting to enter. The structure was rebuilt, apart from the tower. In 1822, the church was lit by gas for the first time with thirty-six lamps. Between 1879 and 1882, it underwent complete renovation by Vicar Dr. Morgan. In 1896, the church was flattened and rebuilt under the designs of Arthur Blomfield by Dean Allan Smith, though parts of the old church survived. In February 1941, it was extensively damaged during the Blitz and was not rebuilt until the 1950s.

With this brief history in mind, the people of Swansea, past and present, hold the church remarkably close to their hearts.

Conceptual/Contextual Ideas:

Taking this into consideration, our group was full of ideas but decided we had to visit the church before making any choice. On the second day, we visited and were all struck by the same aspect: the atmosphere compared to the chaotic world outside.

It honestly felt like being transported far away from the city center. On the spot, we unanimously agreed that the atmosphere had to be the central focus of our work.



A Summary of the Research

- Provide a concise overview of the research you have conducted over the past semester that has led you to the production of your site-specific intervention. Our research began by talking to the current reverend of the church, he gave us a rundown of the history of the reconstruction of the church. As soon as he was done explaining I began to apply a series of techniques to break down the facts, such as mind mapping the facts and branching them off into two sections, 1 original date and time 2 an artistic point of view where i thought about a creative media outcome, after concluding our meeting with the reverend we visited the Swansea Archives where we read through the complete know history of the church.
- Demonstrate your understanding of primary and secondary research skills taught over the past 18 months in developing your ideas from concepts to final installation. (Site visits/ practical experimentation, data collecting etc.)

Since joining the university, I have developed a broad range of skills across various areas of my academic and personal growth. However, the skill I believe I have strengthened the most is my ability to research effectively. When I first began my studies, I tended to approach topics at face value, focusing mainly on surface-level information. Over time, I have learned the importance of questioning everything, not just accepting what is presented but probing deeper into the subject matter to uncover underlying ideas, assumptions, and hidden complexities.

I have also refined my ability to notice and interpret the smaller, less obvious details that often contribute significantly to a broader understanding of a topic. This attentiveness has helped me to develop a more critical, analytical mindset. As a result, my work has become more thorough, evidence-based, and reflective of a deeper engagement with the material. Developing strong research skills has not only enhanced the quality of my academic writing but has also allowed me to approach tasks with greater independence, confidence, and intellectual curiosity. I now view research as an active, investigative process rather than a passive collection of information, and this shift has been fundamental to my growth as a university student.

Techniques Developed for the Production of Your Body of Work

- Outline the tools, materials, or methods employed in creating your work. Highlight innovations or adaptations that you have considered to align with notions of ‘site specificity’.

A key part of my final project development has been the significant improvement of my technical skills, particularly in the use of a projector as a creative tool. Throughout this process, I have learned how to navigate and adjust the projector settings to effectively arrange, frame, and display an image in a way that enhances the overall presentation of my work. I have developed the ability to fine-tune aspects such as brightness, contrast, sharpness, and alignment, allowing me to adapt the projection to suit different spaces and lighting conditions.

This new skill set has had a direct impact on how I am able to control the visual atmosphere of my project, ensuring that the projected image supports and strengthens the conceptual message behind the work. Learning to manipulate these settings has not only improved the technical quality of my presentations but has also given me a greater sense of creative flexibility. I now understand how subtle adjustments can dramatically influence how an audience experiences the work, making projection a much more integral and thoughtful part of my artistic process.

- Practical Application: Describe how these techniques contributed to the final exhibition and supported its conceptual aims.

These skills proved to be incredibly valuable, as without them, my individual contribution to the exhibition would not have been possible. The entire structure of my work relied heavily on the use of a projector and the quality of its projection. Being able to control elements such as framing, brightness, and contrast was essential to achieving the intended atmosphere and visual clarity. Mastering these technical aspects ensured that my piece functioned as envisioned, allowing the projection to not only display the imagery but to become an integral part of the audience’s experience and interaction with the work.

Individual and Group work overview

- Provide a summary of your contribution to the production of a final site-specific exhibition.

On the day of the exhibition, we encountered several issues, both physical and technological. Despite these challenges, I was able to contribute effectively by responding quickly and solving problems through on-the-spot thinking and applying my prior knowledge. Being able to adapt under pressure proved crucial in helping to correct some of these issues, ensuring that the exhibition could continue to run as smoothly as possible. This experience highlighted the importance of flexibility, teamwork, and technical understanding in a live exhibition setting.

- What role did you take in the group?

I personally oversaw two areas 1. advertising in terms of posters etc. And 2. I was the lead communicator with the church both in person and via the phone

- What have you found challenging throughout the process?

I found the lack of attendance and communication in certain departments challenging as it is key in a group site specific, yes, I understand ill health and other personal circumstances, but it takes all of 30 seconds to send a brief message in the group chat.

- How have you overcome any hardship that you have dealt with both in the making of your work and working with others.

Again as there was communication and attendance issue the best way personally I felt to deal with was to move on and if members of the group did not produce anything it must be left out as times were allocated and if not met the rest of the group cannot jeopardize their own work on the behalf of others

- What team and personal skills have you learned/practiced that might be useful in your professional development for future career opportunities?

I have learnt how to work as a group and manage and speak with others to produce the best possible outcome.

Evaluation of the Exhibition

- **Execution:** Assess the success of the exhibition in addressing the site's history, community, or spatial dynamics.
The regulars of the church were very satisfied as they found it very interesting to view Etc. Which to me says our work was a success as people gathered and found the history parts, they didn't know about very interesting
- **Audience Interaction:** Discuss how the audience engaged with your work and the site. Whether it was friends or strangers the work explanation to them went well as they all found the work an interesting take overall was easy to understand rather than something than confusing them. And after speaking with them it made us feel good as we then knew we did it right.
- **Reflection:** Identify areas for improvement and potential future directions for your practice.

In my honest opinion, many opportunities were missed during the development of the exhibition, largely due to a lack of communication and the inconsistent attendance of certain group members. Our original vision included banners, A0 prints, leaflets distributed throughout space, and other promotional materials. However, reflecting back, I believe there were no real excuses for not achieving this, and I include myself in that responsibility. We had over a month to plan and execute the exhibition, yet we failed to fully capitalize on the time and resources available to us.

One major change I would implement if I were to do this again would be to maintain a stronger timetable or schedule. Although we did create a rough plan at the start, it was quickly forgotten and, as a result, the organization of the project fell apart. The lack of structure ultimately affected the final outcome and left me personally disappointed with the quality of the work I produced. I firmly believe that with better planning and consistent communication, the exhibition could have been significantly stronger.

From a future perspective, however, I have taken away an important lesson: setting up an exhibition is much more achievable than I initially thought. In many cases, it is simply a matter of making calls, confirming a space, and building from there. This realization has made the idea of organizing future shows feel much more accessible, and I will carry this practical understanding forward into my future practice.