

Student Name: Stephen Ace

P Number: 0650007

Programme of Study: Creative Games Design

Lecturer's Names: Ryan L. Moule & Rob Jones

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EXHIBTION TITLE:

“The Human Impact of Pollution on Planet Earth”

The mental image I create when I think of Earth Before Humans.



James Mckay/Alfred Wagner institute

This is a concept piece of art created by James Mckay of what he thought The Ancient forests of Antarctica would have looked like millions of years ago, since the discovery of fossil forests some years ago by scientists in the Antarctica region.

Introduction

My exhibition is about the human impact of pollution on planet earth. Humans impact the physical environment in many ways: overpopulation, pollution, burning fossil fuels, and deforestation. Changes like these have triggered climate change, soil erosion, poor air quality, and undrinkable water.

I have chosen this subject because I feel it is important, and needs to be highlighted.

Noam Chomsky, a famous professor of Linguistics at MIT is on record as citing Climate Change as the single biggest threat to humankind today. This surprises many people & many disagree. This is an important area of discussion in relation to now because our planet is struggling more than ever with these different problems where humans create pollution without much care or after thought. This needs to change.

The theories I will touch upon are:

- Consumerism – criticizing consumption & consumer goods in art.
- Futurism – aimed to capture the dynamism and energy of the modern world in art.
- Mimesis – Art imitating life
- Greed causes pollution.
- Modernization.

The themes I will touch upon are:

- Conflict and adversity.
- Humans and the environment.
- Social change
- Industry, invention and progress/modernization.

The Artists I have chosen are:

Claude Monet

Banksy

The National Geographic Society

Chris Jordan

Various Art that I like and found relevant, but found difficult to find the origin/source/artist.

Conflict & Adversity:

There is conflict between the people of the planet and huge corporations:

Coca cola/Pepsi co produce the most ocean pollution.

Saudi Aramco, Gazprom, Coal India & The Shenhua Group of china, are the largest source of greenhouse gases caused by burning fossil fuels.

The Guardian has published an article which identifies the 100 most polluting companies on the planet. An exhibition could be made on this alone.

These corporations, not caring about causing huge pollution because of greed & money (Capitalism), and the apparent passivity and adversity of humans having to live through this, the majority having no choice due to poverty.



Image of Saudi Aramco (image not used in exhibition)

Social Change:

Significant changes in society, with the transformation of culture, behavior, social structure and social institutions over time. e.g. the industrial revolution.

Humans have become distant and lost connection with earth, with nature. This important connection is not seen as important as social media, meaningless materialistic objects, cultures and industries like fashion and many more involved with consumerism.

There seems to be a disregard for future generations, as our lives are short on this planet there is a view/ attitude that comes with it “the problems I cause today won’t affect me, as I won’t be here when results of my actions occur in the future” it’s an attitude that is noticeable to me, and proof for many past actions that have taken place, especially with environmental pollution and consumerism.

'Consumerism' has become one of the dominant global social forces, cutting across differences of religion, class, gender, ethnicity and nationality. It is the other side of the dominant ideology of market globalism and is central to what Manfred Steger calls the 'global imaginary'

Modernization –“ The process of the gradual shift of all industries from hunter gatherer societies to post modern societies, the biggest change being the industrial revolution in the 19th century.”(Schmitz,A. 2012)

This is clearly shown in Claude Monet’s The Thames below Westminster, 1871, he paints the modernization of the boats and the clear modernization of industry and the pollution that comes with that In this famous art work, but also oddly comments it’s his favourite thing about London, the fog.

The term “Modernization” has positive connotations, it sounds good to be modern and modernize, it sounds like progress, yet it has a big downside, especially for the environment, because of the pollution that it brings.

Futurism emphasizes technology, modern creations like the car, electronics, and industrial cities.

The earliest expressions of the theory of futurism are from the 18th century by French philosopher “Marquis de Condorcet, he was involved the origins of the theory with the idea that technological advancements and economic changes can enable changes in moral and cultural values.

“The logic of this view implies that new processes and improvements are continually needed to keep pace with a constantly changing world.”(Condorcet,M. 18th Century)

The French sociologist Émile Durkheim

His most famous work is *The Division of Labour in Society*, which described mechanisms for the maintenance of social order and the ways in which primitive societies might make the transition to becoming more economically advanced industrial societies

His view was that “the major transition from a primitive social order to a more advanced industrial society could otherwise bring crisis and disorder.” (Durkheim.E 18th Century)

Greed Causes Pollution

“Physically, pollution occurs because it is virtually impossible to have a productive process that involves no waste; economically, pollution occurs because polluting is less expensive than operating cleanly” (Gloria E. Helfand, Peter Berck, Tim Maull, 2003)

“Consumerism is a social and economic order that encourages an acquisition of goods and services in ever-increasing amounts.”

“With the industrial revolution, but particularly in the 20th century, mass production led to overproduction, and the supply of goods would grow beyond consumer demand, and so manufacturers turned to planned obsolescence and advertising to manipulate consumer spending.”

“The Theory of the Leisure Class (Veblen.T. 1899) examined the widespread values and economic institutions emerging along with the widespread "leisure time" in the beginning of the 20th century. In the book “Veblen" deconstructs the activities and spending habits of this leisure class in terms of conspicuous and vicarious consumption and

waste. Both are related to the display of status and not to functionality or usefulness.”

The Theme of my exhibition is “The Human Impact of Pollution On Planet Earth”

As you enter the exhibition you see the concept art of the tranquil beauty of our earth, then immediately after you are hit by the sublime, shocking art of what we have done to it, the feelings and guilt that they produce to the viewer.

Why I chose these particular art works – sublime, striking, shocking in your face, seriousness of the situation to make the viewer of the exhibition feel in part guilty that they don’t do or care enough about the problem,, to pull on their heart strings to make then want to improve, to change.

The Artist and their Artworks I have chosen to back this up:

The Artworks I have selected have a strong enforcement of Mimesis, and are strongly linked with my theme and exhibition of The Human Impact of Pollution On Planet Earth

The Artist’s their names and who’s work I will touch upon are:

- Claude Monet, “The Thames below Westminster”, 1871

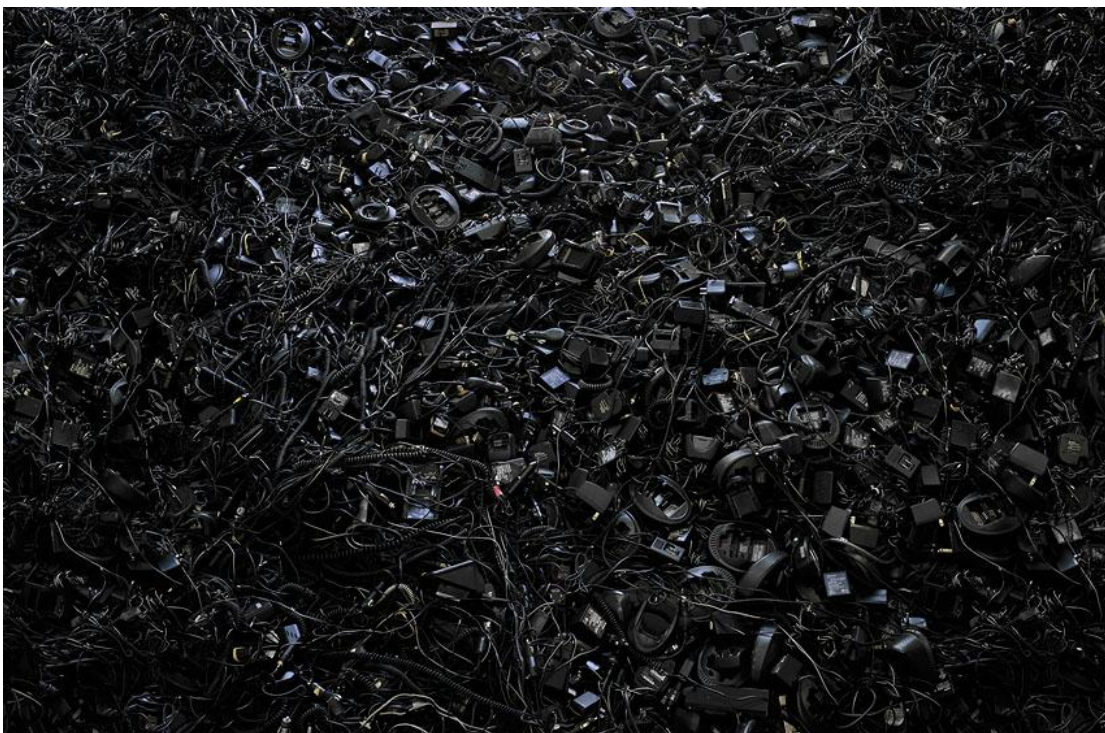


The Industrial Revolution marked a new chapter of history: New technologies were emerging, populations were burgeoning, and the looks of cities were changing. Although economies were blossoming and cities were bustling, the surge of industrialization gave rise to a modern phenomenon: pollution.

As London began modernizing in the nineteenth century, the city grew at a rapid speed and pollution began creeping up in all facets of life. Claude Monet, a leading figure of the Impressionist movement, first visited London in 1870 and painted various scenes of parks and the River Thames. Fascinated by the effects of fog his focus lied in depicting the atmospheric haze. Monet wrote, *"I love London. It is a mass, an ensemble, and it is so simple...in London, what I love, above all, is the fog."*

The next artwork I have chosen by "Chris Jordan" from his series "Intolerable Beauty: Portraits of American Mass Consumption shows the overproduction, manufacturing obsolescence, massive waste and pollution caused by consumerism.

The pictures show huge piles from different waster centers in America of piles of obsolete mobile phones, cables and electronics, which are only a few pictures of many from his works.





Banksy : Seasons Greetings



A tried out and known memory from I assume everyone's childhood, of trying to catch a snowflake on your tongue.

The child is pictured catching what they believe is a snowflake, but is actually pollution and ash from a burning bin

Banksy's mural highlights the realistic view about air pollution in Port Talbot and a lot of other areas around the world affected by air pollution., that it is a reality we live in.

National Geographic



Kids in India play in trash and sift through it for items to sell/recycle

National Geographic



“LESSONS TO LEARN A college student wearing a gas mask “sniffs” a magnolia blossom in New York City as part of a demonstration on April 22, 1970—the first Earth Day. Local events were designed to educate and raise awareness as Americans grew concerned about environmental issues such as pollution and chemical waste disposal. According to a White House poll taken a year later, 25 percent of the U.S. public said protecting the environment was an important goal. In 1969 the number had been close to zero.

(A.P.PHOTO, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)



These images by the National Geographic Society address some of terrible pollution that has been going on for over half a century and are fitting for my exhibition to shock the viewer.

Peking Air – Denver Post Source



Populationspeakout.org – Source Bored Panda Bangladesh



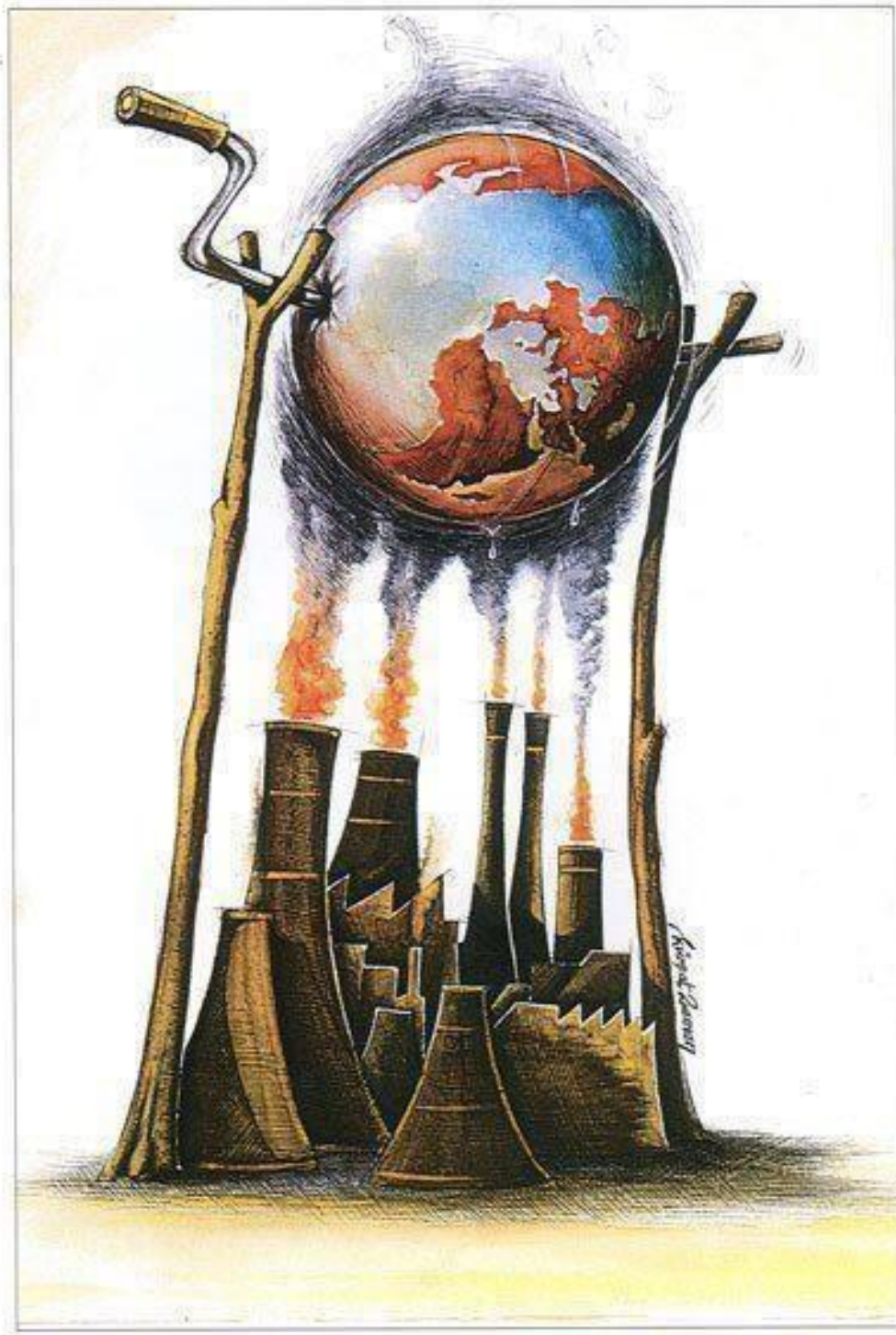
Other Relevant Artworks I like and have included in the exhibition but cannot find the artists that made them, the source I got them from is www.pinterest.com

www.abduzeedo.com/pinterest



This artwork highlights the industry and consumption of Oil in our world.

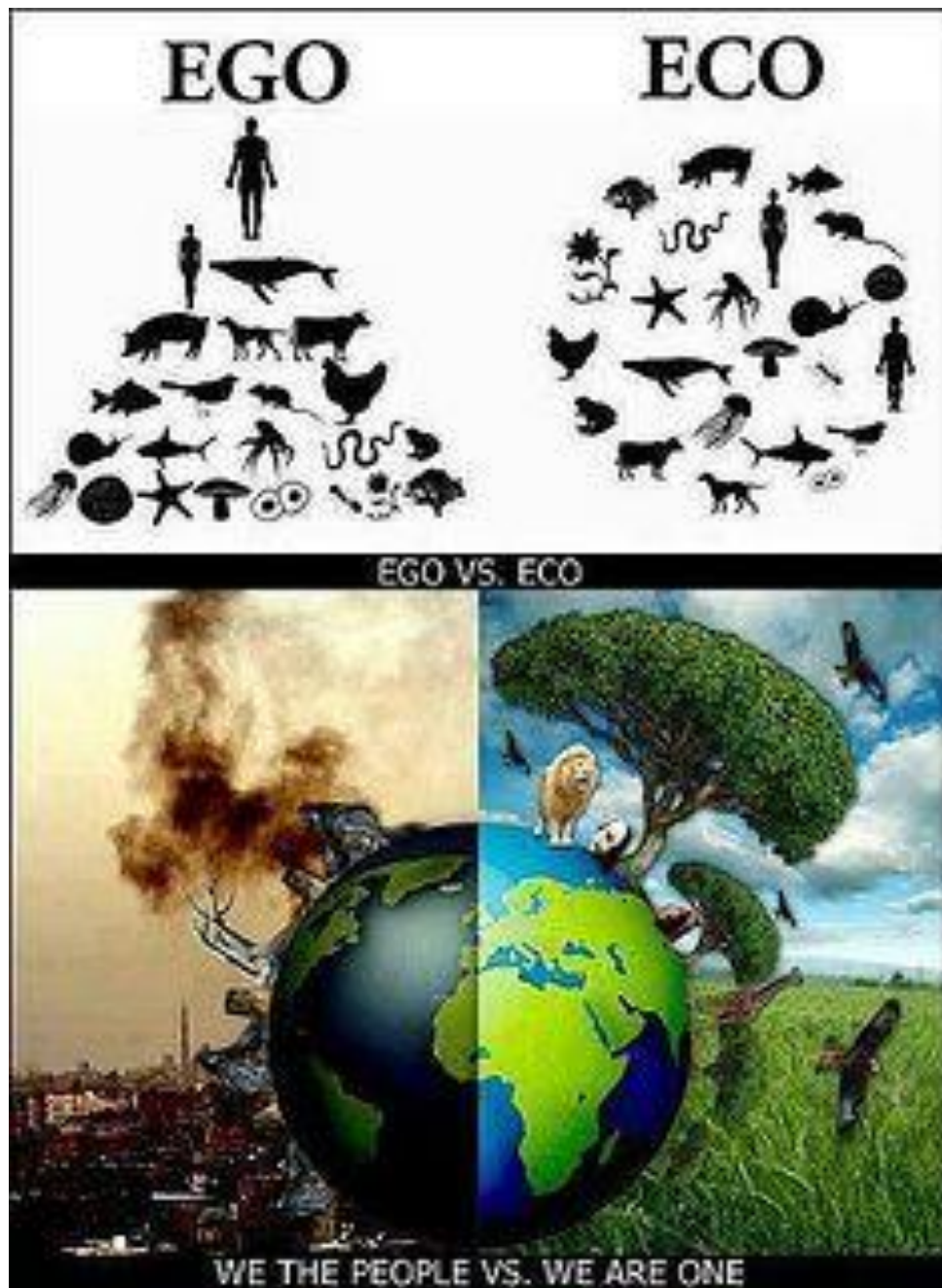
[www.Sustainableman.org/Terri Swearingea/Pinterest](http://www.Sustainableman.org/Terri%20Swearingea/Pinterest)

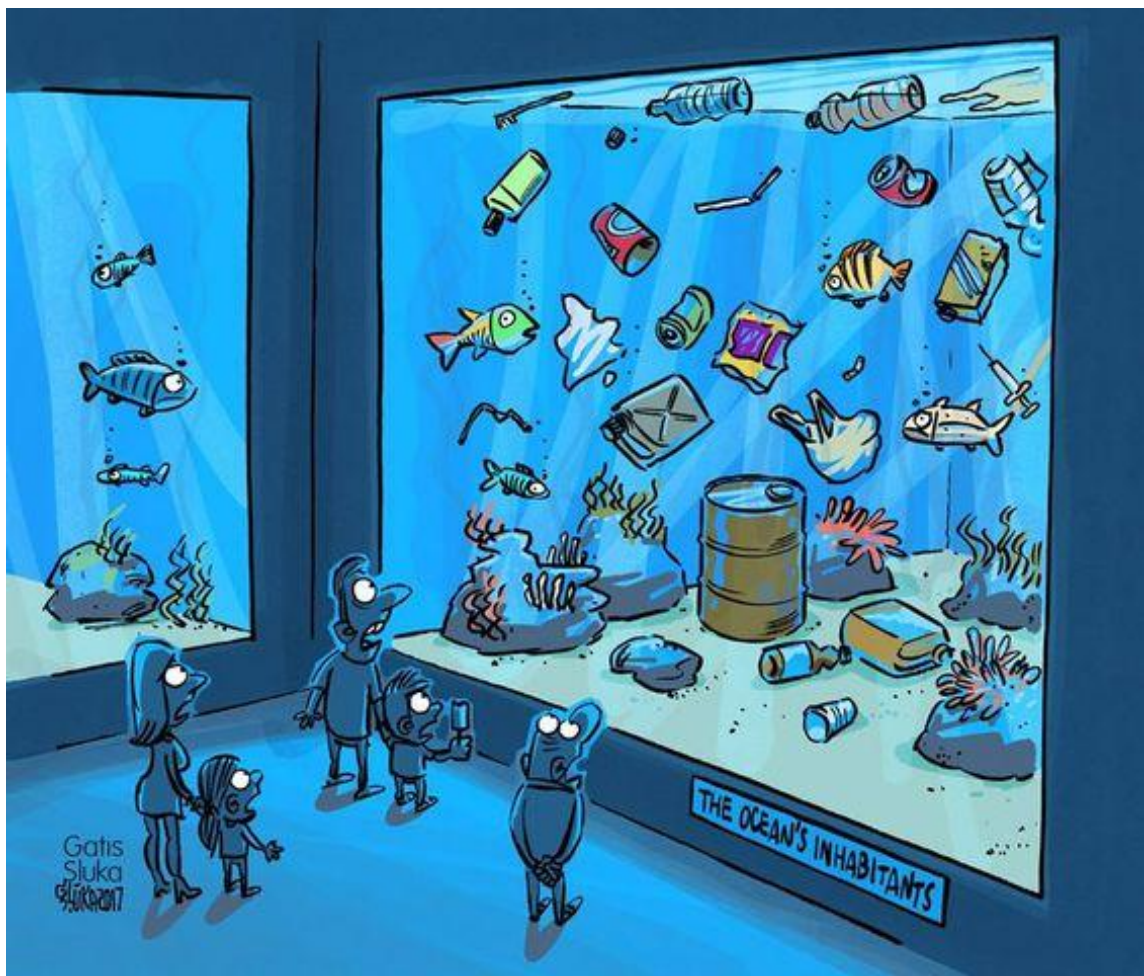


www.fromthebowseat.org/www.pinterest.com



uploaded by mariana fonseca – www.pinterest.com







But there is light at the end of the tunnel, with great inventions like these projects, they act as actual pollution fighting art pieces Which the world needs more of.

The Palazzo Italia



Smog free tower – studio Roosegaarde



My Exhibition Layout

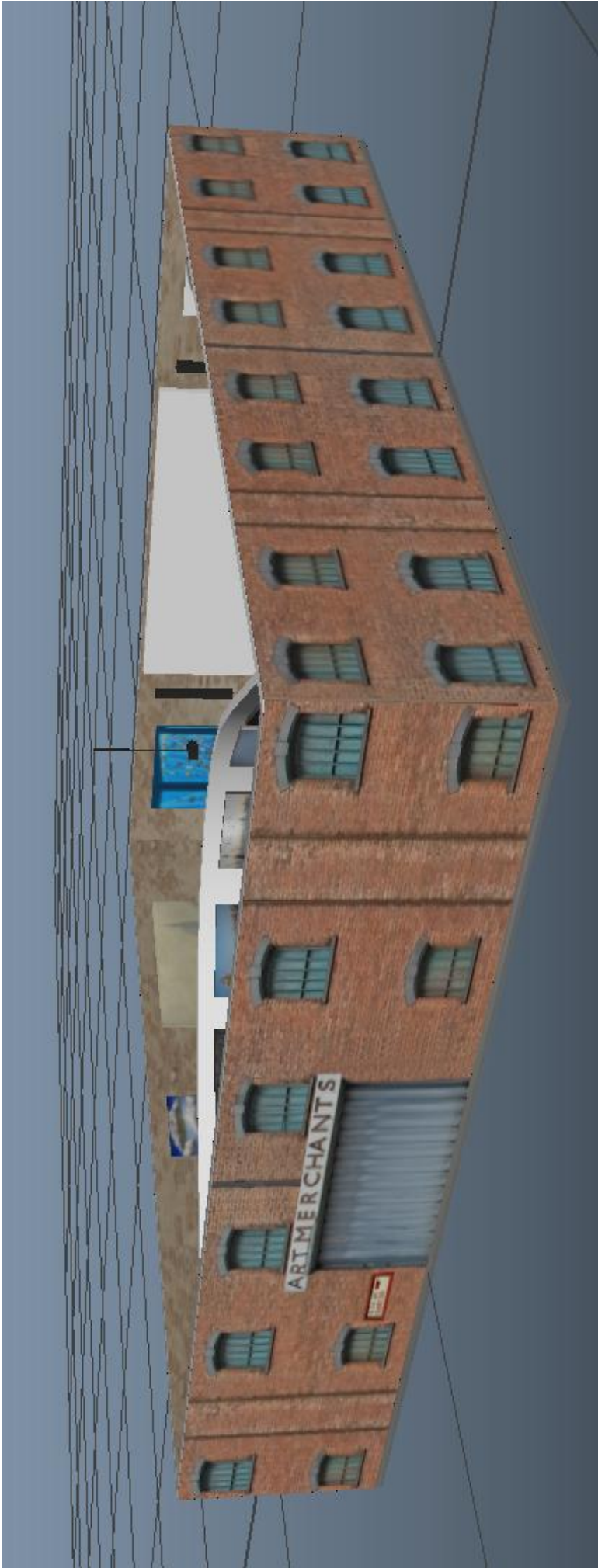
I have modeled and textured my Art Exhibition in Maya and used my chosen pieces of art as textures so I could literally place them on the walls of the exhibition.

The Art exhibition is located in an old, reasonably small building, therefore the exhibition will not be large, and only take & allow a small number of people in at a time.

The rear projector will play a short film/slideshow about pollution, industry and our planet earth.

The point of the exhibition is to shock people and bring the problem of pollution and un-necessary consumption to light, and change their way of thinking and acting for the future of our planet and everyone on it.





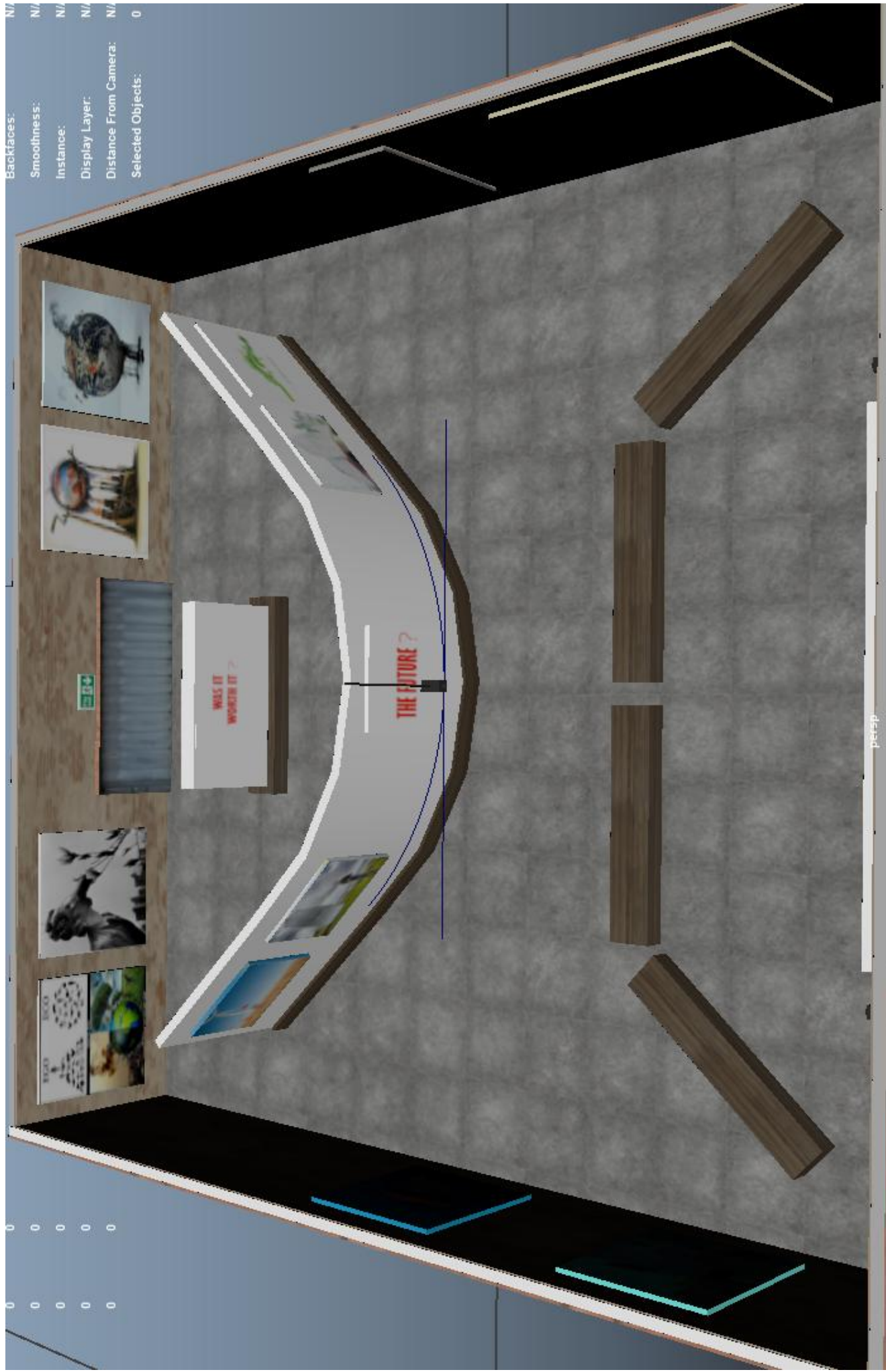
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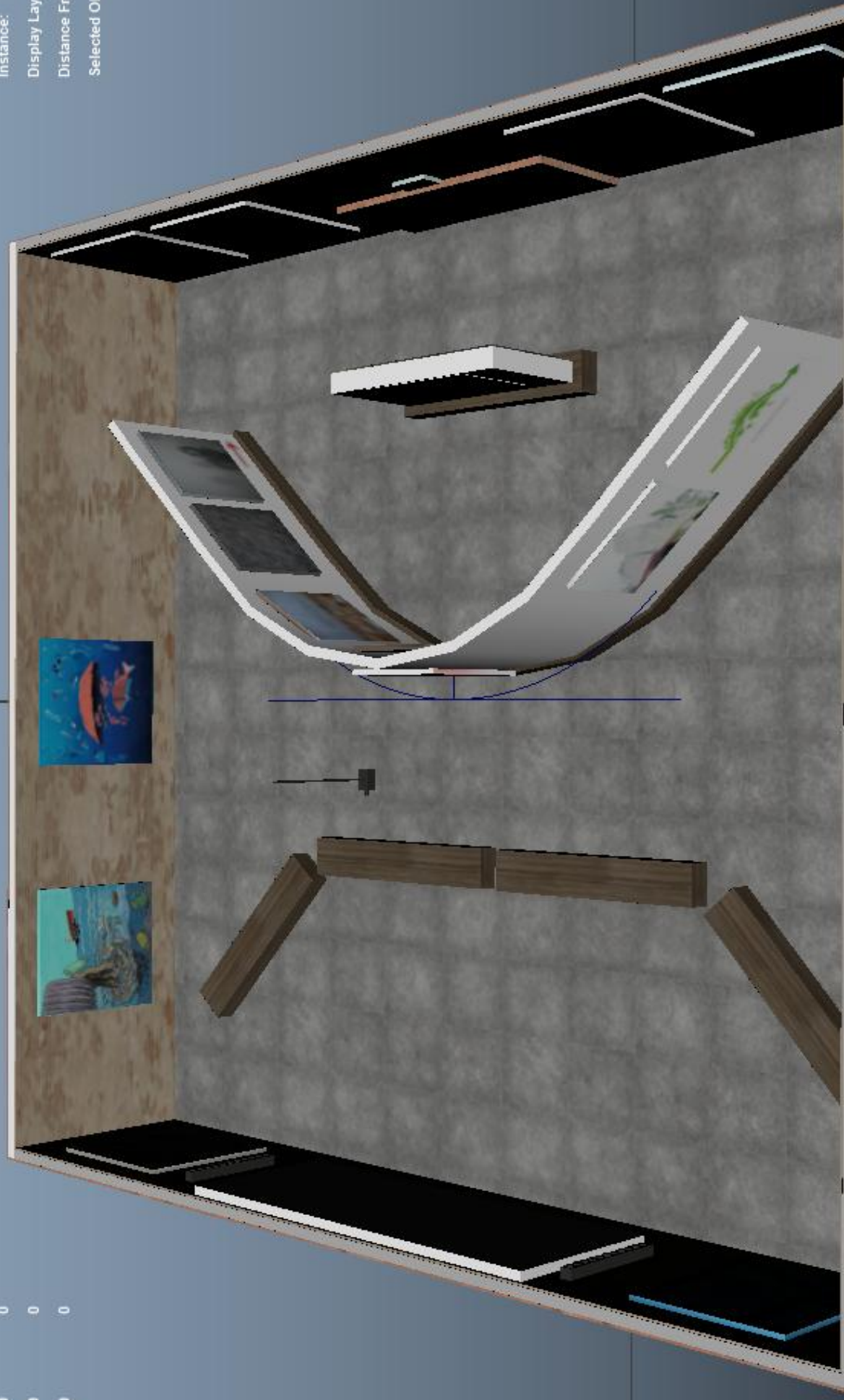


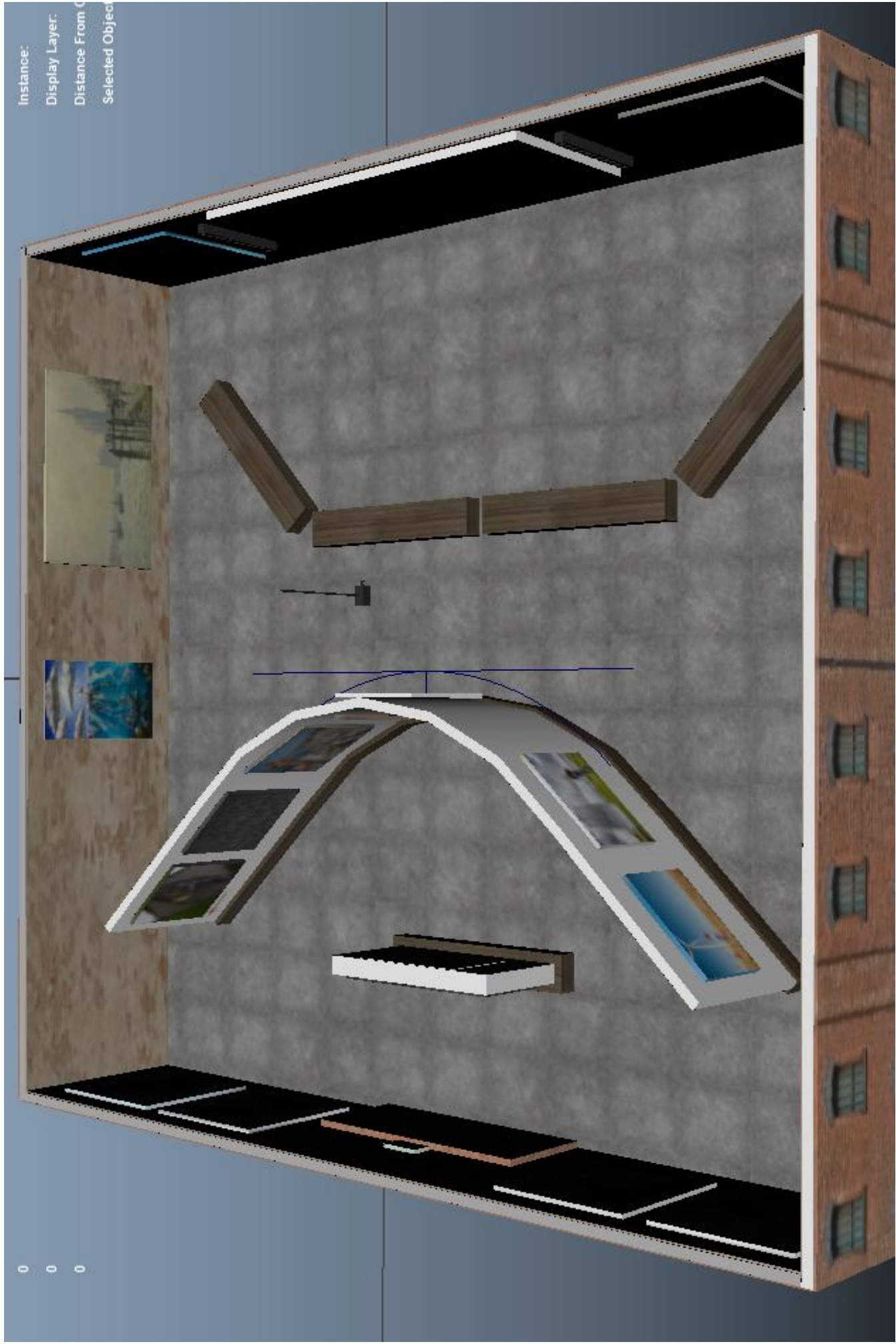
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