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Design Crafts

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The hidden world- An Exhibition

Introduction

In this exhibition all of the pieces are connected by growth and the hidden beauty of nature and humans. The artists I chose are Shona Wilson, Mandy Chen, Rogan Brown, Emeric Chanter and Masters and Munn. The exhibition showcases a variety of mixed mediums pieces and celebrates the uses and beauty of nature in its works. The layout of the exhibition is inspired by the National Welsh botanical gardens in Carmarthen. I chose the dome like structure because of the light that can come through the glass, and when ever you go to the exhibition you will always have a different experience because of the shadows and light that the sculptures are giving off / receiving simultaneously . The exhibition space is circular allowing the spectator to traverse between pieces and return finally to the start/ exit. The pieces are further enhanced by having a see through dome that allows the play of light on the artefacts. (Coflein,2021).

Connectivity is at the essence of this exhibition, showing that everything is linked one way or another. The circular layout allows the viewer to go any direction but they will all ways come back to the start, this is a hidden meaning of the circle of life and everything is connected. That is the hidden beauty of nature and this exhibition also hidden message behind the show . Having my exhibition about the hidden world highlights that nature has the ability to both heal and adapt to any situation for example “small moist wounds have become portals for fungi.”(Wohlleben,2017) This shows the beauty and the versatility of nature, it also shows the connection between humans and nature because , humans can heal and adapt to our surroundings .

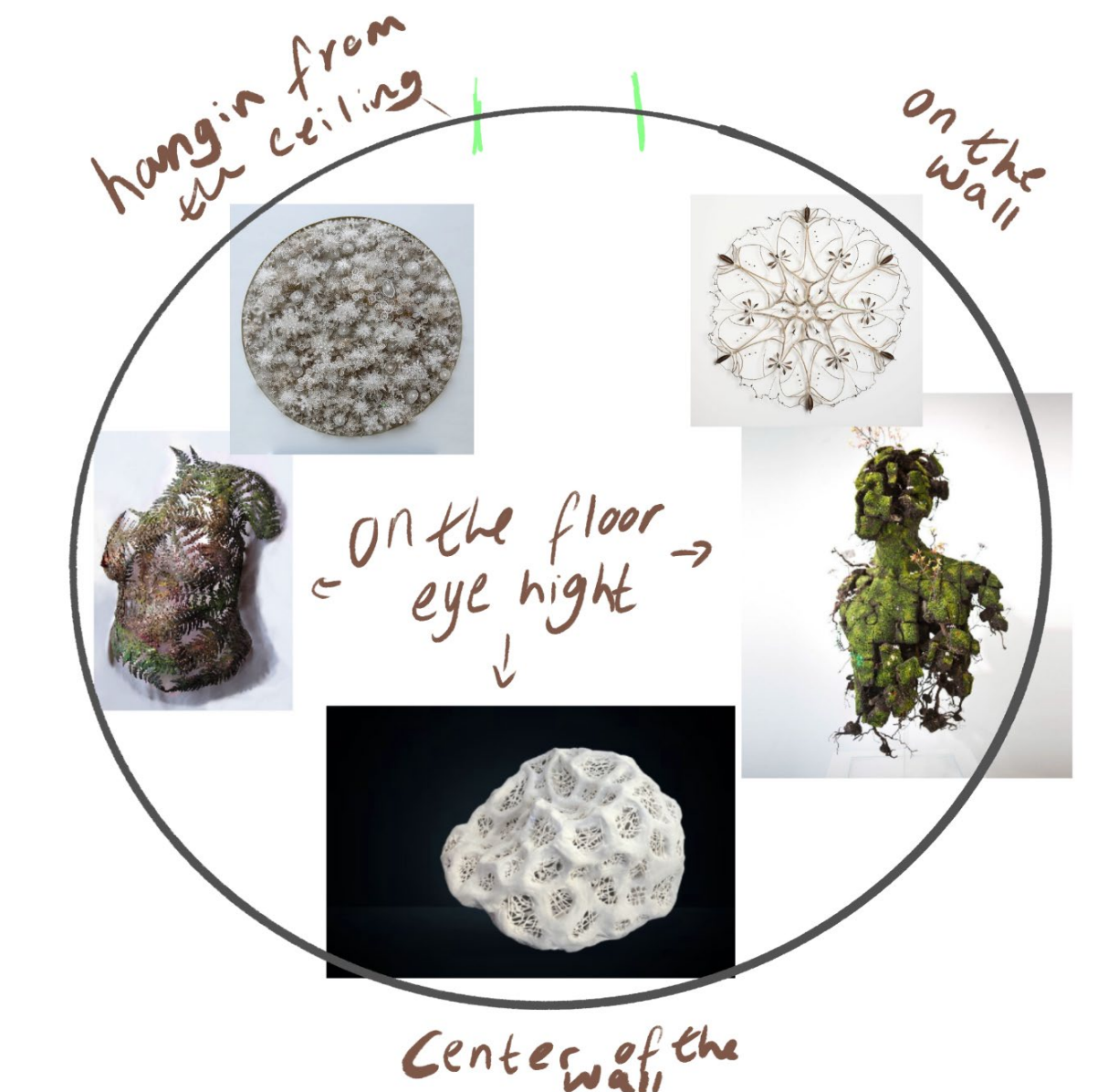


Fig.1: Layout of exhibition

The above floor plan shows the different pieces and where they are situated in a two dimensional format.



Fig.2: *Heirloom*

Heirloom by Shona Wilson is a mosaic of nature, with repurposed materials from everyday objects found in nature. "Creating with Nature's overlooked fragments, brings me closer to understanding the world we share. These materials are storehouses of knowledge and information."(Wilson , 2023)

This shows how man can manipulate nature in a precious and unique way. Highlighting how fragile nature is and how everything is not forever and we should cherish it. "Invitation to marvel and wonder at the details within nature which I present predominantly through sculptural assemblages."(Wilson ,20 23) Using fragile-looking plants to make a structure can show how strong an organism can really be. However, it will also look fragile and vulnerable at the same time. Growth is highlighted through using dead sticks, shells and skulls to show that once they were alive. The idea behind Shona Wilson is to " marvel at the details in nature" thus, why adding *Heirloom* will connect to growth. (Wilson ,2023).



Fig.3 :*Mycelium Unearthed :Natures hidden Stewarts*

This porcelain sculpture by Chien, is of the hidden fungi that is found on the roots of plants and is a type of connectivity or communication, weaving a narrative of their hidden existence beneath the surface' (Chen ,2024).

Mycelium is a ecosystem that is hidden making it seem invisible, however, this still reminds me of emotions, personality, and the true, meaning of how you feel as a person. *Mycelium unearthed: nature's hidden stewards is a sculpture made out of porcelain by Mandy Chen.* "this sculpture invites viewers to contemplate the intricate web of life that lies beneath the surface, reminding us of the interconnectedness of all living beings.'(See fig .3) Repairing and growing as a system, makes the

ecosystem, much stronger. Just as in life we must all repair and thus grow stronger. The intricate connections within the peace can also represent how each person has a link towards everyone and how everyone is connected somehow. (Chen, 2024).



Fig.4 *Blossoms*

This, art piece shows that the different organisms and Eco systems in a small patch of land anywhere you go. It also shows that there are different things around us, and we just do not know about them as they are so well hidden , often the real beauty is in the things that are hidden.

Blossom Fossil, is a Laser cut paper, cardboard piece 71 × 56 × 56 cm_by Rogan Brown. This piece shows different organisms and eco systems that are hidden from us. This piece 'explores the architecture of natural forms' this making it fitting in to the exhibition because of the connection

to the hidden beauty. The piece is also represents growth alongside the symbiotic relationship that exists between nature and art. Making the paper in delicate cut pieces in a similar way to that of a eco system. This affect will show the viewer that each living thing is beautiful , delicate and sometimes fragile and that just like nature we should look after it. (Chantier, 2018).



Fig.5 *Plant structure*

Emeric Chanter used 'real twigs and flowers to create sculptures. He also uses faux greenery, combining them with the real elements of nature. He calls his sculptures "a fantasized nature". And he sees them, as sort of 3-D illustrations.' . (Chantier, 2018).The connection between this piece and the exhibition is that connection to our souls, and to nature as well. The sculpture reminds people of

the imagination of children playing outside. This also represents a pregnant woman which is indicating that it is a safe place for children to play and grow. However, the piece can also be linked to brokenness, the cracks from the body symbolise this, however, when looking at the cracks you can see that slowly they are plants growing and trying to heal the brokenness. Chantier by doing this has made something beautiful, fragile and something that everyone can relate to. (Chantier, 2018).



Fig.6 *Gaia*

'Gaia' is Structure is a woman's body, however, it does not depict the beauty standard body shape. This is highlighting by the fragility of the ferns. This shows the imperfections of the human body by

using ferns, the plant it shows how beautiful , elegant and imperfect bodies can look.(Masters and Munn , unknown).‘responding to ever-developing material technologies available to contemporary sculptors whilst continuing to pay homage to the more ancient and traditional art forms.’ The use of copper and gold highlights the body of the sculpture . Gaia is liked to the exhibition because she symbolises natural beauty and growth as a woman figure .(Masters and Munn ,unknown).This spiritual connection to nature is shown through the aesthetic combination of the ferns and the overlapping/ interweaving nature of the sculpture . Also the combination of materials used within the piece further explores this idea.

conclusion

The connectivity in this exhibition is nature and mother earth “Gaia”. The poem that inspired me is:

‘ Your physical form,

Will one day cease to be,

Yet your spirit will continue to live,

Beyond the horizon of time.’ By Toni Carmine Salerno. (Salerno, 2007).

I wanted to respond to this, poem by making an exhibition that highlights nature and growth as humans and the nature itself. I have done this by adding art works that are using nature as a medium and highlighting the hidden world of beauty.

The exhibition has a wide variety of artefacts that all have different , materials, sizes, colours , shapes and aesthetics , so that all spectators should be able to find something that they relate or respond to. The different levels also create interest and allow each piece to have its own space and light . This invites the viewer to walk around each piece and see the different angles / illusions emitted from the sculptures .This playing with light and shadow will reveal a different experience each time the person views it . Just like nature it is ever changing and evolving.

Hopefully the exquisite exhibits will provoke emotional responses from those who see them , allowing viewer to be immersed in the beauty of nature and the diversity of the materials it can make. For my this exhibition can relate to my life and past experiences and making me understand that healing is a beautiful thing and I should embrace it.

List of Illustrations

Figure 1: Jones , A.(2024)*Layout of exhibition*. [hand drawn plan.]

Figure2 :Wilson ,S.(2023) *Heirloom*[Sticks]. Available at : <https://www.shonawilson.com/> (Accessed :30th April 2024).

Figure 3 :Chen ,M.(2024) *Mycelium Unearthed :Natures hidden Stewarts*. [Porcelain] Available at : <https://artelaguna.world/artist/chen-mandy/>(Accessed :30th April 2024).

Figure 4: Brown ,R.(2014) *Blossoms*.[paper] Available at:
<https://www.contemporarycollective.com/rogan-brown>(Accessed :16th April 2024).

Figure 5 : Chantier, E.(2018) *Plant structure*[Sculpture elements of nature] . Available at:
Plant structure <https://www.emericchantier.com/> (Accessed :16th April 2024).

Figure 6 Masters & Munn.(unkown):*Gaia* .[sculpture] Available at:
<https://www.mastersandmunns.co.uk>
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Gaia

Body and Soul: in Honour of Mother Nature and the Feminine Spirit

By [Toni Carmine Salerno](#) · 2007

https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Gaia/_hzWZXP1O-YC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Gaia+mother+nature&printsec=frontcover