

Student Name: Lois Pavett

P Number: 2400755

Programme of Study: Design Crafts

Module: ADDA4023 Ways of Perceiving

Word count: 1,635

Human Figures

The exhibition which I intend to curate will be called 'Human Figures'. It will feature six pieces of work, primarily sculptures, from different artists.

According to Gombrich (2006), a knowledge of human anatomy is so important in art because "anatomy is the language of the body" and it is "the key to understanding" the bodies "mysteries and unlocking its potential". It is so important for people to be aware of the body and to also be aware that while all bodies look different, they are all art. My exhibition will be held at the Mission Gallery in Swansea. I have chosen this location because the size of the Mission gallery, mixed with the amount of artworks, will work for my exhibition very well. I have chosen pieces of work for my exhibition which fit my theme of human forms. I will also include mirrors in my exhibition to demonstrate themes of closeness and similarity to the art. The mirrors will also be used in my exhibition to portray the idea that the viewers are also part of the art, no matter what they look like.

The theme that I have chosen for my exhibition is about figures, as the name says. My exhibition will explore human forms, and the idea of all bodies being art. I want my exhibition to show a variety of human forms, some which are lifelike, and some which are unrealistic. According to Scott (2012), all bodies are beautiful as "the human body is the best work of art". I want to portray this idea in my exhibition because I feel that it is so important for people to recognize that their bodies are art.

I will also explore in my exhibition the idea of the viewers being part of the artwork, and even becoming the artwork. I will use mirrors placed around the gallery area to do this. I will put mirrors between and around each of the artworks so that when the mirrors are looked into, the viewers are also including

themselves in the group of human figures which they have come to admire. While the viewers will be thinking of themselves as pieces of art, I would also like my chosen artworks to be relatable and I will hopefully achieve the effect of the viewers and the artworks morphing into one and feeling shared emotions. According to Barkan (2001), engaging with a piece of art is “to invite its emotion into your own heart”. Barkan says that “art has the power to make us feel its meaning as if we are experiencing the emotion firsthand”. In my exhibition, I aim to create an experience where the viewers can relate to this quote, and can feel the emotion of the artworks.

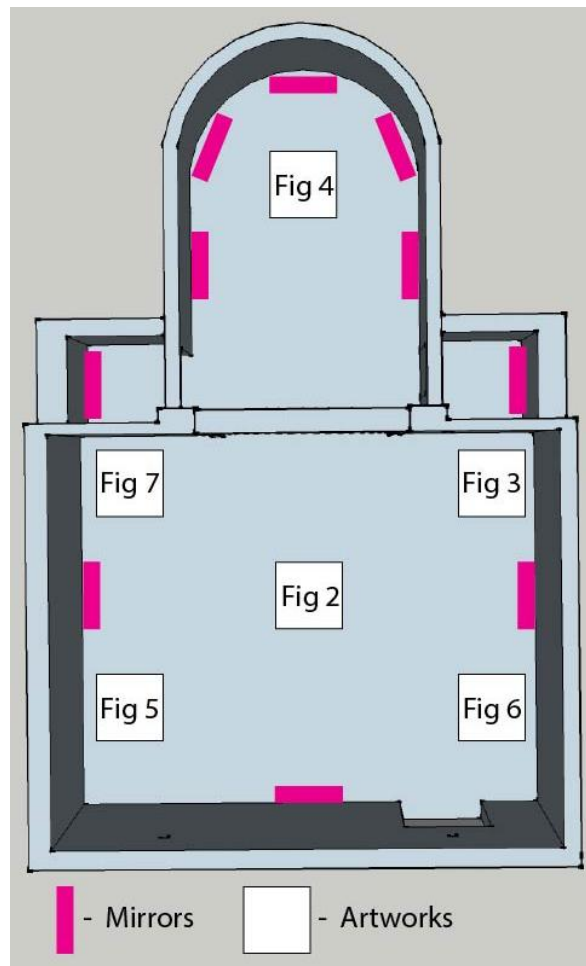


Fig One

As shown in Fig one, I intend to hold my exhibition in the Mission Gallery in Swansea. I have chosen this location because it is a good size to hold all of my

chosen artworks. I will feature six sculptures showing human forms in my exhibition. These sculptures have been curated by me as I feel that they all fit my chosen theme. The artists whose sculptures I will display in my exhibition are Anna Gillespie, Richard Troszak, Antony Gormley, Michele Rizzi, Jed Malitz, and Lucy Lyon. These artists all specialize in creating sculptures which are focused on the human body and that is why I have chosen their work to display. As well as the sculptures, I will also include mirrors in my exhibition. The mirrors themselves will not be the artwork; instead my goal is for the people who look into the mirrors to see themselves as part of the art. I will place the mirrors on the walls in the Mission gallery between and around the sculptures. I will do this so that between looking at the sculptures, the viewers will also take time to look at themselves and appreciate that they are also art.

Something that helped me with the idea of my exhibition was reading about Utopias and Heterotopias by Michel Foucault (1984). I find the ideas that are laid out in this interesting as it talks about spaces that are real and spaces that are not real. In this text, Foucault refers to mirrors as being a utopia as “it is a placeless place”. Since mirrors and the reflection in them are described as being unreal, I would like to use this principle in my exhibition because I want the viewers to feel as though while they are looking at a reflection of themselves, they are also looking at something that is separate to them, and a piece of art in its own right.

I found inspiration for my exhibition from *The Hidden Dimension* by Edward T. Hall (1966). This theory describes how humans interact with space, and it talks about “the way people use space and perceive distances”. With the small space

available in my exhibition, I will focus on the “intimate distance” to make the viewers feel a closeness to themselves and the artworks.

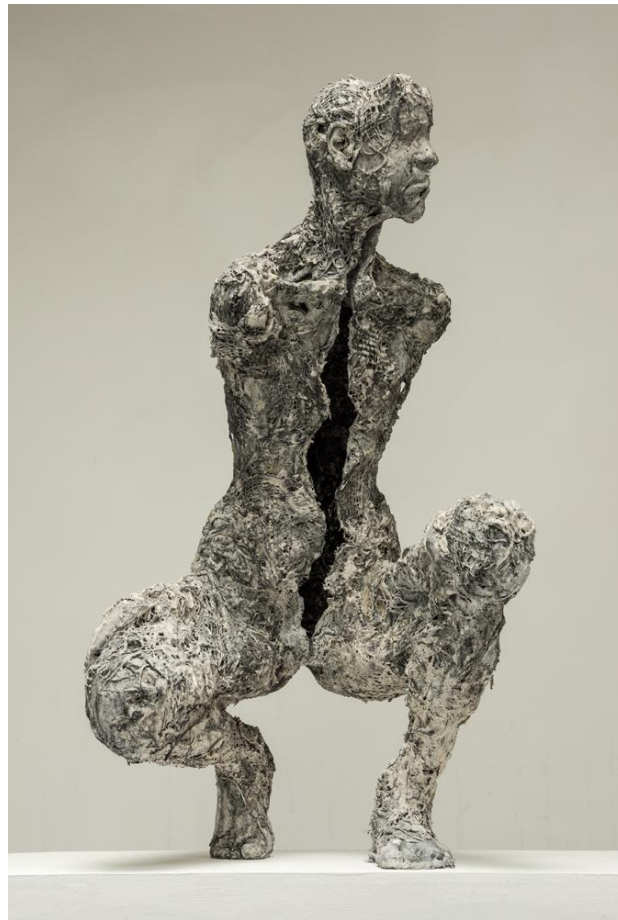


Fig Two

One of the artworks that will be displayed in my exhibition will be ‘Divided’ by Anna Gillespie – Fig two. Gillespie is a sculptor who resides in Bath. ‘Divided’ was made in 2017. It was created using plaster and paint was used on it to add depth. The dimensions of this piece are 107 centimeters tall, 46 centimeters long, and 48 centimeters wide. This is a sculpture showing a human form, however in this sculpture, the body has no arms and it has a split down the middle. The distorted look of this body will be a good fit for my exhibition as there will be a mix of average looking bodies, and also unnatural bodies.



Fig Three

Another one of the artworks that will be on display in my exhibition will be 'The Pleiades-Taygete 1/8' by Richard Troszak – Fig three. Troszak is a Canadian artist who creates human sculptures using metals. The piece that I have chosen for my exhibition was created in 2010 and it is made out of Bronze. The dimensions of this piece are 47.63 centimeters tall, 11.43 centimeters long, and 16.51 centimeters wide. This is a sculpture of a female figure. The sculptures pose makes it seem as though she is deep in thinking. This 'thinking' pose will fit well in my exhibition because it will encourage others to think and this will be good since I want the pieces to blend in with the viewers.



Fig Four

A piece of art that I will have on display in my exhibition will be 'Divided States: Supplicate I' by Antony Gormley – Fig four. Gormley creates sculptures that explore the human body and its relation to space. He has been made an OBE and a knight. This sculpture of his that I would like to have in my exhibition was made in 2006. It is made out of stainless steel. The dimensions of this sculpture are 143 centimeters tall, 65 centimeters long, and 56 centimeters wide. This sculpture is of a human figure kneeling. It appears to have been built using blocks, and the blocks have been placed in a way that makes it look like a person. This sculpture is life sized so I think it will work well in my exhibition as the height will add to the link between the artwork and the viewers.



Fig Five

Another artwork that I will include in my exhibition will be ‘New Renaissance (Star Woman)’ by Michele Rizzi – Fig five. Rizzi is an Italian artist who makes sculptures, often of human forms, using wire. ‘New Renaissance (Star Woman)’ was made in 2020 and it was made out of Iron. The dimensions of this artwork are 180 centimeters tall, 65 centimeters long, and 32 centimeters wide. This is a sculpture that, through the name, we know is a woman. It shows the top part of a person created using thick wire and at the bottom is shows wires falling straight down and not showing the figure of a human. It makes it seem as though the rest of the figure was unraveled, or is falling apart. This sculpture will be a good addition to my exhibition because the way that it seems to fall apart fits with my theme of morphing the viewer and the sculptures.

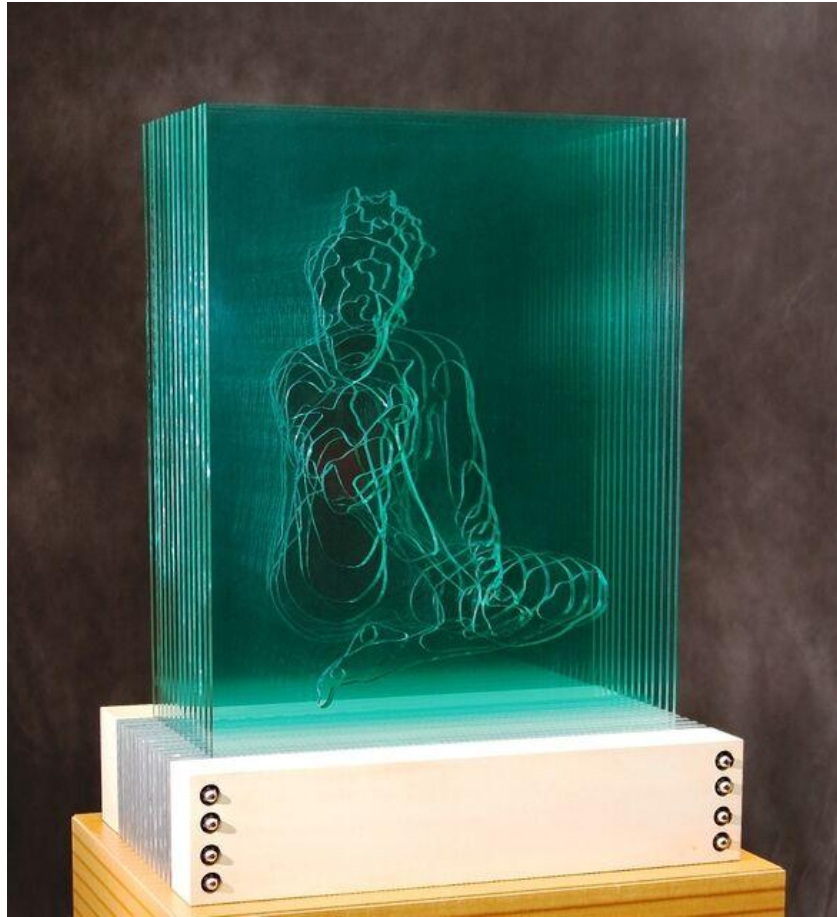


Fig Six

An artwork that I would like to have displayed in my exhibition will be 'Serenity' by Jed Malitz – Fig six. Malitz is an artist who creates sculptures by using sheets of cut glass that have been put together to create an image, often of a person. 'Serenity' was made in 2013 out of glass. The dimensions of this piece are 182.9 centimeters tall, 76.2 centimeters long, and 59.7 centimeters wide. This sculpture is different to the other ones that I have chosen because it shows the figure inside a cuboid shape, unlike the others which show the figures not within anything else. The figure in this sculpture seems to be a girl sat down. While we cannot see any emotion on her face, her pose shows that she may be thinking, and the title of the sculpture tells us that she is feeling calm. This piece of art will fit well in my exhibition because it will make the viewer think and feel calm, which links to my theme and desire for the artworks and the viewers to morph into one.



Fig Seven

The final artwork that I will have features in my exhibition will be ‘Aesthete’ by Lucy Lyon – Fig seven. Lyon is an artist from New Mexico who specializes in creating glass sculptures of humans. ‘Aesthete’, the artwork that will be in my exhibition, was created in 2021 and it was made using solid cast glass and steel. The dimensions of this sculpture are 67.3 centimeters tall, 29.2 centimeters long, and 38.1 centimeters wide. This piece of work shows a person sat on a stool with a cushion with a calm look on their face. The word ‘aesthete’ means “a person who understands and enjoys beauty”. This links with my theme well because the idea is for the people who view the exhibition to also be pieces of art so the statue looking at them and enjoying their beauty works very well.

Figures

Fig. One: Pavett, L. (2025) *Exhibition Map*.

Fig. Two: Gillespie, A. (2017) *Divided*.

Fig. Three: Tosczak, R. (2010) *The Pleiades-Taygete 1/8*.

Fig. Four: Gormley, A. (2006) *Divided States: Supplicate I*.

Fig. Five: Rizzi, M. (2020) *New Renaissance (Star Woman)*.

Fig. Six: Malitz, J. (2013) *Serenity*.

Fig. Seven: Lyon, L. (2021) *Aesthete*.

Bibliography

Barkan, L. (2001) *Transuming: Art and Identity in the Modern World*. New York: University Press.

Foucault, M. (1984) *Utopias and Heterotopias*.

Gombrich, E.H. (2006) *Anatomy for the Artist*. London: Phaidon Press

Hall, E.T. (1966) *The Hidden Dimension*.

Scott, J.C. (2012) *The Human Body: The Best Work of Art*. New York: Jess C. Scott Publishing.