

Report: Site-Specific Exhibition

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Site Specific Exhibition Title: Three Silent Nights

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?
As a group we chose to use Wind Street as our site-specific we all had different reasons for choosing Wind Street mine reason was the history. Due to choosing Wind Street we then had to look for a site to hold the exhibition at as we could not have it in the middle of the street due to the weather and also the fact that Wind Street is a busy street full of different people, So we then looked around Wind Street to locate a place we first went into the no sing bar but the bar wanted up to 50 pounds for three days which we did not want to pay due to it being expensive just for three days. We then tried a different bar called The Coach House and we had success as the site manager said we could use the space for free. The site we were holding our exhibition at has been around for decades from the 1800 it was Fulton, Dunlop & Co Wine and Spirit merchants and stayed that way till 1960 when it turned into The Coach House being a famous local music venue and bar but then in 1998 the Coach House got refurbished into a bar and restaurant also changing its name to the Pitcher & Piano until 2022 where it changed its name back to The Coach House. The piece of work I created was all related to the history which Wind Street and The Coach House is shrouded in so that benefited my work.
- Conceptual/Contextual Ideas: Discuss your group and individual interpretations of the broader themes your exhibition explores, such as identity, memory, community etc.
As a group the theme we decided on was past, present and future and we were all going to collectively create work showing that theme, there were 5 of us in the group so we were going to section which part of the theme we would do. But then an individual in our group decided that they wanted to do their own theme so then we all had to go and do our own themes for the exhibition. I still wanted to create a piece of work showcasing Wind Streets history so that's what I did.

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.

At first I was just looking at the history of Wind Street in general I found out that Wind Street was a main trading post for the Vikings back in the 11th century, Wind Street was also a local market place back in the 15th century all away until the 19th century when business started to be built. By the end of the 20th century all the businesses that were once open started to turn into bars and restaurants then a few turned into nightclubs, now Wind Street is known for its amazing nightlife. On February 19th-21st of 1941 for three nights Swansea was targeted by the German Luftwaffe they dropped 1,273 high explosive bombs and 56,000 incendiary devices on top of Swansea city, the German Luftwaffe aim was to destroy the Swansea docks and Swansea Coal mining industries. Over 41 acres of Swansea was destroyed some of was city center and town but yet somehow Wind Street was only affected up the top the rest of the street managed to not get hit or effected so the business opened their cellars and basement for the civil guards and the solders protecting our city. All this research helped me with what piece of work I wanted to create and what I am going to base it on.

- 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.)

I visited the archive center to look at some images of Swansea during the three night blitz and found a one or two on Wind Street and also found old newspaper articles. I also done extensive research online reading through articles, history pages and watching history videos of Swansea three nights blitz on YouTube and BBC channel online.

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'.

For my work I created a piece of image fabric bunting. I originally wanted to create the bunting on photopaper as I thought it would be more fitting as I'm a photography student and it would have been more affordable but then it would not have looked presentable, so I decided to create a fabric bunting instead. I firstly created a mock bunting out of paper and went to our site to measure how big I would like my bunting then once I had the measurements I then went to a 2 event printing places in Swansea just to quote for a price and they said about 25-30 pounds so I decide to look online and I found a company that did it for 20 pounds plus 5 pounds postage but due to shortage with time I just had to do the online one. The image I wanted to be printed on the fabric was printed to wide, so I had to work with what I got, I had to make the triangles smaller than my mock bunting I done. With the survivor quote I was going to put on the bunting I first had to make the bunting shape and then I ironed on the quote using a ruler to make sure they were all centered and level with each other. I then ironed the bunting on to a long piece of ribbon spacing them using a beer coaster width apart then once I was at the site I stuck the bunting on the brick wall using gorilla tack as it was strong and not noticeable, I then cut the ribbon down to the size I wanted it and it was done.

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

Due to the bunting being smaller the triangles look narrower and not exactly like bunting shape, so I decide to iron on gold ribbon on the outline to create a border which did make the bunting look a little wider. I used gold ribbon as it blended well with the colour of the image and white ribbon to hang it up so it wasn't blending in too much with the site as it was on a brick wall, and I knew the white would stand out. I used white iron words as I wanted the words to be visible and easy to read.

Individual and Group work overview

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

I came up with our title for our exhibition. I originally created our exhibition poster using photoshop but then halfway through we decided to change the poster to better suit the title of our exhibition which someone else in the group did whilst I was creating our handouts. I created our handouts using Power Point although another group member created the map on the back, and I also created a QR code using a QR code generator I then placed the QR code on to our handouts that describes our individual title and descriptions of our work.

- What role did you take in the group?

I and another group member became leaders and we done everything by ourselves or together snice it was only us two mainly contributing to the group and trying to get everything done in time.

- What have you found challenging throughout the process?

Trying to get certain individuals in the group to contribute to in doing shared work e.g.- posters, handouts and manage the social accounts. Also, communication between all of us as a group was really low as a thew never answered the group messages and showed up at group meetings.

- How have you overcome any hardship that you have delt with both in the making of your work, and working with others?

I realized that sometimes you just have to get things done yourself and try not to rely on people that are showing zero effort. I have also realized that I need to produce my work a thew weeks before the actual exhibition and not leave it till the week before the show.

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

I have learned that I am a good team leader and can also work well in a group if everyone is contributing and I am not doing everything by myself. I am also willing to do what I am told and respect other people's personal views.

Evaluation of the Exhibition

- Execution: Assess the success of the exhibition in addressing the site's history, community, or spatial dynamics.
Due to the site being a bar and restaurant it is always open to the public, but it is a quite bar and restaurant compared to all the other bars and restaurants on Wind Street, so it does not get many visitors.
- Audience Interaction: Discuss how the audience engaged with your work and the site.
Due to the site always being quiet we did not have a lot of public audience, only our friends and family visited which everyone liked all of our work and was pleased with the outcome.
- Reflection: Identify areas for improvement and potential future directions for your practice.
Next time if I was to make another bunting, I would make sure I have the right financial funds, then I would create more than one bunting and also make them bigger. I would also hold the exhibition in a busier venue and try to broaden my marketing strategies to get more public visitors.