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This essay will detail my exhibition which is inspired by the keywords music, space, and togetherness. A lot of exhibitions take place within the confines of a museum or gallery space. However, Obrist (2008) refers to Harald Szeeman when discussing curation 'taking on new qualities', stating that Szeeman sought to create shows that were "poems in space" (p.296). I intend to include these new qualities in my exhibition, incorporating buildings and outdoor spaces.

The exhibition will be curated in a way that makes use of the outdoor space as well as the chosen venue. Curation refers to select the art pieces and place them on display (Obrist, 2008). The intention of the exhibition is to combine sculpture, music and lights and will be curated in a way that shows the importance of togetherness for the sake of the planet and our civilisation. The exhibition will firstly focus on planets and space, which is defined as "the physical universe beyond the earth's atmosphere" (Waite, 2012 p.697). It will then incorporate a musical performance to enhance the message of protecting our planet and coming together.

The date of the exhibition will be on the next Winter Equinox, which is Friday 22nd December 2023. The exhibition will span across two venues in London. The first part of the exhibition will be held at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. This is "a building equipped with a telescope or other scientific equipment for the study of natural phenomena" (p.495). This will be followed by a concert on the River Thames. The first part of the exhibition will begin at 13:30 (GMT) and will consist of a talk with Professor Brian Cox, where the audience can sit and listen to an interesting talk about space and the planets. They will then be able to look around the observatory and use the telescope and the quadrant tool used for working out distance of a planet or star (Royal Museums Greenwich, 2023).

The next venue will on the dock at the River Thames where there will be a display of three of Luke Jerram's Planets. These are massive sculptures of 7 meters in diameter, that represent the different

planets. The Planets toured around the world after COVID-19 pandemic to have audience to reflect what happened to earth. By showing a representation of the Earth as a whole, the audience were able to see it from the 3rd perspective and feel everyone is interconnected. These art pieces also help to gauge what the planet that we cannot see in full with our own eyes is like. It excites people to see what is out there. The audience will be able to view the floating planets (earth, mars, moon) on the River Thames, along with a concert performed by Coldplay on a floating stage lights (17:00 – 19.00).

Visitors will be informed of the order of events through a promotion leaflet. Brian Cox will also talk through the plan during his talk. The identity of the performers will be kept a secret until the day of the event, so that the audience will be people who are interested in the planets rather than people who want to watch Coldplay. This means that everyone in attendance will be there for the whole event.

Professor Brian Cox is a physicist and musician. His broadcasts on the Cosmos are inspired by the idea that "music and science are interdependent ways in which we make sense of the world and universe around us" (Barbican, 2022). During this part of the exhibition, the audience will sit and listen to him talk about space and the planets, the history of telescope and when certain planets were first sighted. He will then talk about the family who used to live in the observatory. The talk will be in two segments with a break in between for space themed snacks and cocktails.

Figure 1 Greenwich Observatory (Author, 2023)

Once the Royal observatory part of the exhibition has closed, the audience will then be guided to follow the Meridian line, walk past Maritime Museum and Royal Naval College and Cutty Sark and make their way to the dock where they can watch the sunset at 15.53 (GMT).

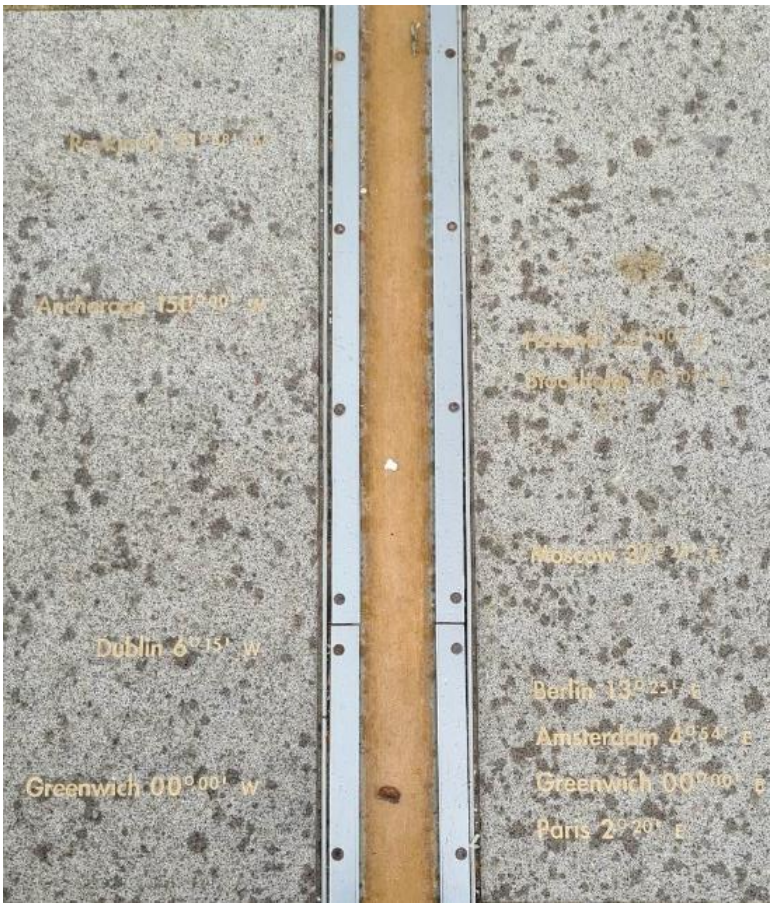

Figure 2: Meridian Line (Author, 2023)

Figure 3 View Over Greenwich (Author, 2023)

Moon uses 120dpi NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Each centimetre of the sculpture equates to 5km of the moon, at an approximate scale of 1:500,000 (Luke Jerram, 2023).

Figure 4: Moon Under Tintern Abbey (Author, 2018)

When talking about the museum of the moon Jerram stated that that people's response to his artwork was "wonderful to witness". He goes on to say that many people spent hours exploring the detail of the moon; some visitors even laid down below it to "moon-bathe" (Jerram, 2019, P.38)

Gaia was designed from NASA images of the Earth. It is 1.8 million times smaller than Earth, and every centimetre represents 18km of the Earth's surface. When the audience stands 211m away from it, it looks how the Earth would appear if standing on the moon (Jerram, 2019).

In a further interview relating to Gaia (Earth) Jerram is quoted as saying:

> We desperately need to change out habits to protect our planet. I hope Gaia enables people to see the Earth as a fragile and beautiful ecosystem (Jerram, 2019, P.46)

Figure 5: Gaia (Luke Jerram, 2023)

Like his other planets, the artwork for Mars uses detailed NASA images of the surface of Mars. It is approximately one million times smaller than the planet Mars, so every centimetre of the spherical sculpture represents 10 kilometres of the surface of Mars (Jerram, 2019). The sculpture in internally lit, giving a red glow.

Figure 6: Mars (Luke Jerram, 2023)

All three planets are important to my exhibition is because I want to make the environment to have a space feel and for the audience to be surrounded by the planets.

The reason that I have chosen Coldplay to do a performance is because they have space themed music within several of their songs. Their music also aims to bring everyone together no matter who or what they are and to remove their boundaries and be who they want to be. This brings a sense of community and curating to their phenomenal shows. From my own experience of their performances, it feels like you are on the different world, colourful and chaos in one show. The reason that I wanted to bring togetherness into this because I feel there is a disconnection with the people around the world of being so chaotic and lost interaction due to covid-19. Furthermore, the population has grown and so have different cultures. Culture is often used to talk about the collectiveness of people, but the innumerable cultures and subcultures that now exist have made culture more divisiveness than bringing people together (Buchanan,2018 p.109-110).

The songs that I would have them play is ‘My Universe’, ‘A sky full of stars’ and many other songs that they have made that fit in with space and togetherness, such as ‘Humankind’ from the ‘Music of the Spheres’ album.

The audience will wear light-up wrist bands as they would look like stars to match the theme of the exhibition. The way I see the lights is to bring people together and sense of community because the lights is showing that it is all same and so are humans which links to the merchandise quote from Coldplay “Everybody is an Alien Somewhere” which is saying we are all different but in many different ways but no one should discriminate anything for it. Also the lights coming together would give the sense of all lights coming to make one bigger light which would show all the people is participating to a community to solve problems in our planet. For example, Coldplay are advocates of saving the planet through sustainable living and support Project Seagrass which aims to educate people to protect plant life in the ocean (Project Seagrass, 2023).

Figure 7: Coldplay Merchandise (Coldplay, 2023)

The music element brings in a new dynamic to exhibitions. When looking into music, one term that can be used to describe modern bands is ‘Hauntology’. This is a genre of music popular with British musicians of the early 2000s and often uses sampling to evoke cultural memories of the past. The original idea of ‘hauntology’ derived from philosopher Jacques Derrida was about Marxist influence on the west. Mark Fisher interprets hauntology as the idea of a lost future, which is something Coldplay tackles in their music. Fisher criticises bands like Coldplay for partaking in cancel culture, but

Coldplay are trying to make a positive difference and a better future (Hassan, 2022). Culture is often used to talk about the collectiveness of people, but the innumerable cultures and subcultures that now exist have made culture more divisiveness than bringing people together (Buchanan, 2018). Coldplay use music to bring people together.

There are several reasons for naming the exhibition 'Things can only get better'. The title comes a D.Ream song, of which Brian Cox was a member as a keyboard player, so it links with him. I also felt that this title was appropriate because the message of the exhibition is about making the planet better through relationships with people and practising togetherness instead of divisiveness.

To conclude, the main impact of this exhibition is to bring further awareness of sustainability for our planet, togetherness, wellbeing of humans and the planet. The venue aids this as the observatory is a place for learning more about planets and the river front is a natural outdoor space, so the venue pushes the message of the exhibition. I wanted to include 'Moon' because I visited the museum of the moon in Tintern abbey in 2018, and I wanted to bring this experience to others.

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List of Figures

Figure 1: Greenwich Observatory (Author, 2023) ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Figure 2: Meridian Line (Author, 2023)..... 4
Figure 3 View Over Greenwich (Author, 2023)..... 4
Figure 4: Moon Under Tintern Abbey (Author, 2018) ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Figure 5: Gaia (Luke Jerram, 2023) 5
Figure 6: Mars (Luke Jerram, 2023) 6
Figure 7: Coldplay Merchandise (Coldplay, 2023) 7