



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
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Ways of Perceiving

Student Number: 2010143

BA Course Title: Surface Pattern Design

Word Count: 1515

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The World as We Know It



Figure 1. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan

'The World as We Know It' is the perfect, bold title for a topic so severe and heart wrenching, that is why I have decided to create an art exhibition highlighting the struggles of climate change and the effects it has around the world. The exhibition will take place in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park (Hiroshima Heiwa Kinen Koen) as Japan was hit by "Heavy rains, heat waves, the Osaka earthquake and Jebi typhoon, which ravaged Japan in 2018, made it the most threatened country in the world by climate change." (2021, <https://www.iberdrola.com/environment/top-countries-most-affected-by-climate-change>). This subject needed to be touched upon as by the minute the planet is deteriorating in some way and raising awareness by exhibiting heart felt artworks created by 5 artists who will bring light to the situation and help resolve the ongoing issues around the world today. This exhibition is curated up of 5 different artists who use their art to spread awareness on the topic of climate change. These artists are, Bill Russel, Krisanne Baker, Zaria Forman, Nor Tijan Firdaus and Edward Burtynsky.

The WWF website explains how to adapt to climate change:

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need to dramatically reduce global carbon emissions. But we must also prepare for the significant and unavoidable consequences of carbon emissions such as increasing temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, ocean acidification, sea level rise and the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.

(2021, <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/effects-of-climate-change>)



Figure 2. Hiroshima Memorial park

Dearsley comments on some of the historical facts about this monumental tourist attraction in Japan:

This remarkable city, which so many believed would be uninhabitable for decades had, by 1974, doubled its pre-war population. Hiroshima today is regarded as the world's "peace capital" and is home to such notable attractions as the Hiroshima Peace Institute, as well as a number of important structures that survived the bombing, if only as ruins, and which provide a sobering reminder of that fateful day.

(Dearsley, 2020, <https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/hiroshima-jpn-cg-hiro.htm>)

My exhibition will highlight the underlying truth and horrific effects climate change has brought upon the earth during many years. There is going to be mixed emotions during this because it will open up the minds of people who do not want to believe the truth about climate change, we need to do something now before it is too late. This is one of the most eye-catching ways to make others interested and concerned, using a historical building to showcase these pieces of art is important to the overall exhibition because it tells its own story with the help of the artist's work. I aim to achieve many changes relating to this diabolical situation. This exhibition will be an important history lesson for many, whilst admiring magnificent pieces of art from around the world highlighting how important it is to look after the world that we live in.

After researching the history of climate change, I have discovered that:

In 1938, Guy Stewart Callendar did just that when he compiled temperature measurements from the late 19th century onwards to show that, over the preceding 50 years, global land temperatures had increased. The globe, he showed, was warming. Charles David Keeling continued the job.

(2021, <https://science.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/how-we-discovered-climate-problem>)

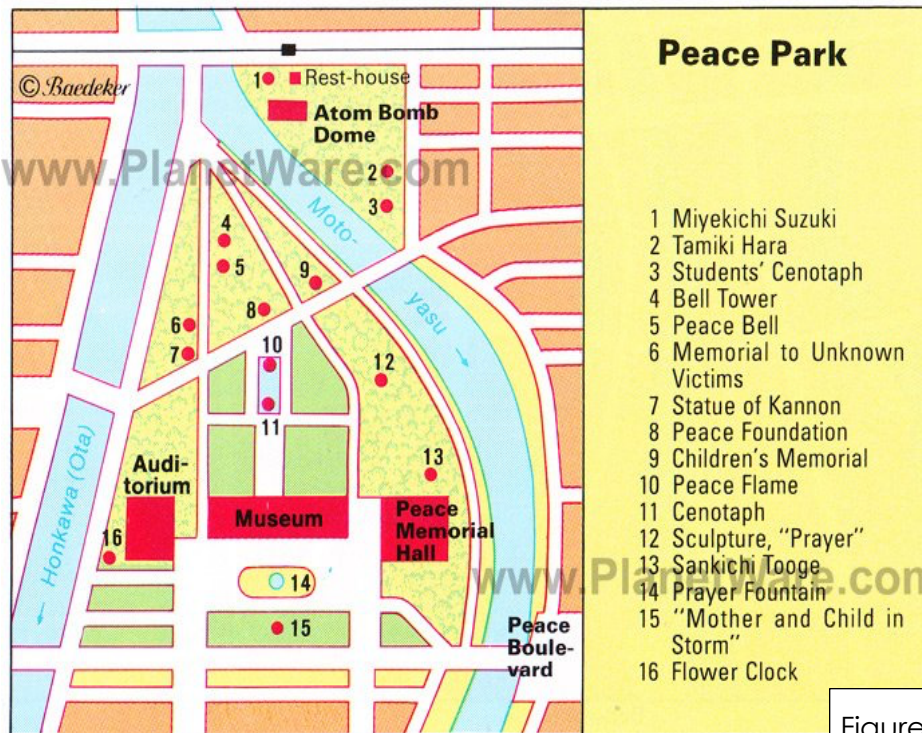


Figure 3. Peace Park Map

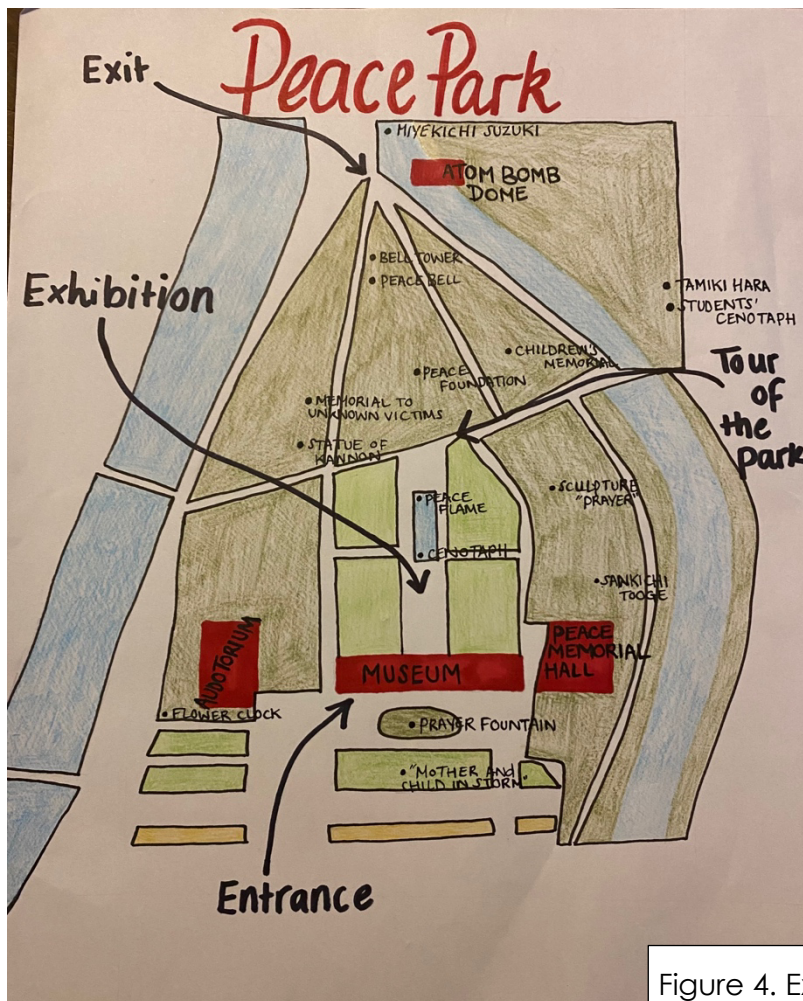


Figure 4. Exhibition Guide

Throughout this walkthrough exhibition, there will be displays curated up of 10 interesting and inspiring pieces of artwork created by 5 different artists from all over the world. My exhibition will take you on an adventure around the memorial park where you will receive interesting information about the historical park and about the exhibition. All of the pieces of artwork will be displayed on blank walls inside the museum, there will also be spotlights above each piece of work to ensure that the audience can capture every texture and detail throughout pieces that they will capture every detail and texture throughout. The composition of my exhibition is going to be minimal; "the act of combining parts or elements to form a whole. the resulting state or product. manner of being composed and structure"

(2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/composition>) My exhibition is going to be minimal as the artworks is going to speak for itself, the positioning of the art will also play a significant part in the exhibition as it will be presented in a large scale so that it stands out to the audience. The positioning will exceed the benefits and attributes of the work presented in the minimalistic exhibition. Space is another key factor in my exhibition that will be important to the outcome the artworks will be placed and spaced evenly throughout the museum in the park.

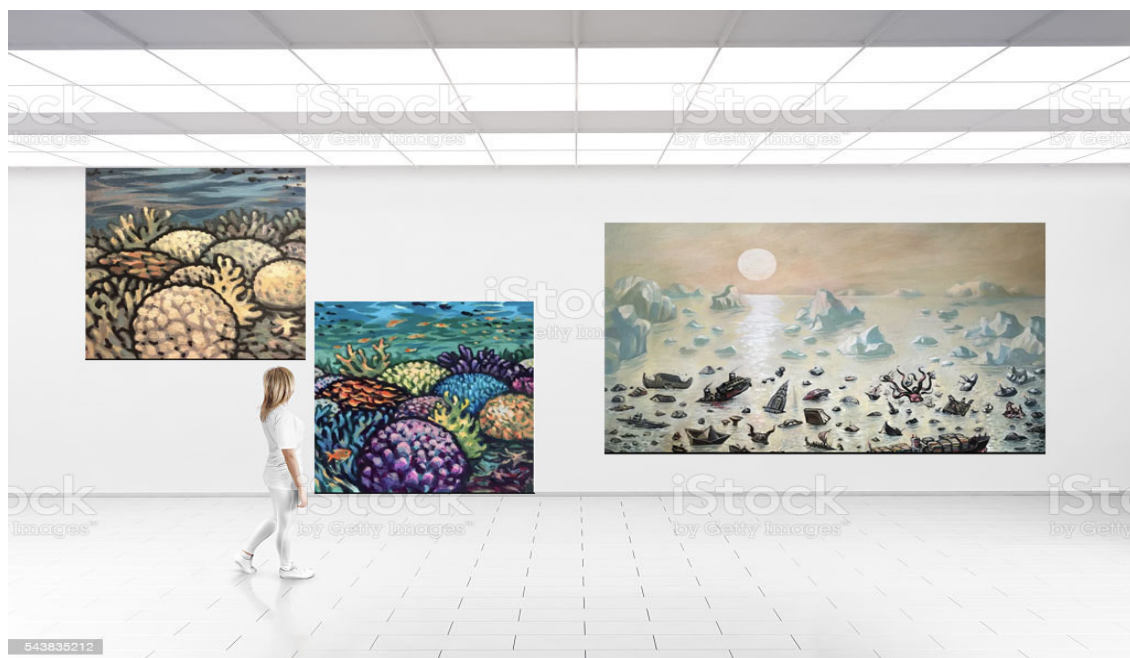


Figure 5. Art Display 1

This artist, Bill Russell, has been chosen to start off my exhibition because he has a real eye-opening message behind his work, it will make the viewers more engaged

and intrigued for the rest of the exhibition. This artist focuses his talent and creativity on painting the realistic tragedies that have been caused by climate change. As you can see in Figure 5. Art display 1, the piece of art *Coral Bleach Diptych (Before and After)* is an extreme eye-opener to the topic of climate change.

A warming planet means a warming ocean. Rising water temperatures can trigger coral reefs to expel the colourful algae living in their tissue, which turns them sickly white. In *Coral Bleaching Diptych*, I wanted to show the before-and-after views of this effect and to draw focus to this mostly unseen ruination.

(Russell, 2021, <https://artistsandclimatechange.com/2021/03/05/about-the-deluge-my-painting-process/>)



Figure 6. Art Display 2

Edward Burtynsky is an extremely unique artist, *Rock of Ages* and *Silver Lake Operations* in Figure 6. Art Display 2 are the two pieces of art that are going to be displayed in my exhibition. Burtynsky has used natural materials to create his art pieces, which links with the theme of my exhibition perfectly. On article about Edward Burtynsky, it says, "In his large-scale colour photographs, Edward Burtynsky explores landscapes that have been transformed by human enterprise. He was led to this body of work under circumstances that are an apt metaphor for the subject matter itself." (2012, <https://www.artworksforchange.org/portfolio/edward-burtynsky/>) The space between Art Display 1 and Art Display 2 will be 5 metres apart and will also be displayed in other areas on the memorial park for the audience.



Figure 7. Art Display 3

Display number 3 is curated by artwork created by Nor Tijan Firdaus, this artist shows powerful messages throughout their pieces which will intrigue the audience. The exhibition is going to be unique and meaningful with the pieces of art that have been chosen, for example, these artists all have the same message but have presented it in different ways, using different media. The positioning of the pieces are going to be 1 metre apart, parallel to each other and on a minimal white wall so that each detail stands out to the crowd.

On a statement regarding Nor Tijan Firdaus, it mentions:

Nor Tijan utilises a wide range of discarded electronic components ranging from resistors to transistors to capacitors and inductors amongst others to creatively fashion her latest works. Concerned for her audience and collectors, it has to be noted that Nor Tijan attends to the cleaning of such discarded e-waste prior to usage.

(Gajardo, 2020, <https://theartling.com/en/artwork/nor-tijan-firdaus-climate-change-is-real/>)



Figure 8. Art Display 4

This display is going to be curated by immaculate pieces of work designed by Zaria Forman, Forman's work is the appropriate theme for my exhibition. She focuses her work on climate change and her outcomes are incredible. Again, these 2 pieces will be 1 metre apart and 5 metres apart from the other displays shown in the gallery, also around other areas of the park such as the children's memorial because it will bring a calm atmosphere.

Zaria Forman has written about her own work and says:

The inspiration for my drawings began in my early childhood, when I travelled with my family throughout several of the world's most remote landscapes, which became the subject of my mother's fine art photography. I developed an appreciation for the beauty and vastness of the ever-changing sky and sea.

(Forman, 2019, <https://legionpaper.com/blog/2019/6/3/zaria-forman-documents-climate-change-with-pastels>)



Figure 9. Art Display 5

For the finale, Krisanne Bakers work unquestionably stood out from the others. *Ocean Breathing* in Figure 9. Art Display 1 is a hanging piece of art that would look interesting hung up next to *Seeing Water*. These pieces will finalise and bring the exhibition together as "she has devoted herself to researching and revealing the condition and beauty of our rivers, streams, and oceans, and to advocating for their protection" (Fishman, 2020, <https://artistsandclimatechange.com/2020/08/31/seeing-water/>) The detail that has gone into these pieces is incredible and is a great attribute to my exhibition as it ties with the theme perfectly. To end my exhibition, there will be a tour around the Memorial park for those who want to find out more about the history of Japan.

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