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Introduction

For curating my exhibition I wanted to look at a topic that affects everyone across the world because I wanted the viewers to be able to relate to it and be able to understand it. I chose climate change because it is a massive issue and I felt like it could be an interesting exhibition to curate because of the different aspects of it I could look at, I also feel like it could be a topic that a lot of people could empathise more with and hopefully it could make an impact on the viewers so they could possibly help prevent climate change from getting worse. After looking at Climate Strike Protest posters like *'What I stand for is what I stand on'* *'There is no Plan(et) B'* and *'You'll die of old age, we'll die of climate change'* (Bridget Read, 2019), and seeing the different play on words which I quite liked I have decided on naming my exhibition Make The Earth Green Again, I chose this because I feel like it would be good in the sense of letting people know what the exhibition is about and being memorable.

Context

Climate change is a change in the world's average temperature and a change in weather, caused by actions made by us humans (Heather Doyle, 2021). According to the NASA website the current global atmospheric carbon dioxide level is the highest it has ever been at nearly 420 million (Holly Shaftel, 2021). The main cause of climate change is people, however there are some natural causes like volcanic eruptions (though volcanic eruptions emit 50 times less carbon dioxide than us humans do) which have played a part in the change of climate (Met Office, n.d). Us humans have increased our use of fossil fuels over the past 50 years (Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser, n.d), fossil fuels are things like coal, oil and gas that are used to create some sort of electricity to create heat, or run cars (WWF New Zealand, n.d). Another cause of climate change is deforestation (WWF New Zealand, n.d), which means that millions of animals are losing their habitats and are now sadly dying or having to go into rescues and rehabilitation, for example there are now only 3,200 tigers in the wild (WWF, n.d). Climate change is causing the temperature to rise across the world and there to be longer "frost-free seasons" (Holly Shaftel, 2021) and due to the increase of temperature, glaciers and ice sheets in Antarctica have shrunk by 148 billion tonnes a year between 1993 and 2019 (Holly Shaftel, 2021). Before doing this research I knew climate change was a massive problem, but I did not realise the extent to which the global climate is affected, and I am hoping by curating this exhibition I can enlighten others to the devastating effects of climate change and additionally raise further awareness on the topic, because it is an issue that needs to be dealt with immediate effect as the complications it could cause to our planet could have a catastrophic affect.

Art is really helping with highlighting the issue of climate change and showing the damaging effects it is having on our planet, because art can be understood in every language and can be very powerful with putting significant messages across, which I believe is useful for raising awareness for climate change because it is a global issue. Artists like Olafur Eliasson, who often focusses his work on climate change because he said in the first episode of Netflix's Abstract "if we want to change something about the climate, it has to be explicit, it has to be physical." (iGuzzini, 2020). Alexis Rockman also looks at creating art that will "make a difference in terms of political

change” (artnet, n.d). Rockman mainly focuses on creating work that shows the effect climate change has on animals and the environment to show us that we need to take care of the planet before “it is too late” (Art Works For Change, n.d.). David Attenborough is a well known Naturalist who looks at global issues, like climate change, with a massive audience of multiple generations who has already made an impact with his Blue Planet II series where 88% who watched it changed their lifestyle (James Hitchings-Hales, 2021) to try and stop climate change from getting any worse.

Artworks and Artists

I intend to hold my exhibition at the Mission Gallery, where I will have 4 different pieces of art, I think this would be a good amount due to the scale of some of the artworks I plan to include and the size of the Mission Gallery. The Mission Gallery is 12metres high (Swansea Council, 2015), so if I were to have big scale artworks I would have to have less artworks to try and reduce the risk of confusing the viewers by having too many artworks. I really like the idea of including a variety of art like; photographs, installations, paintings and moving image within my exhibition.

The first piece of art that I decided on including was Olafur Eliasson’s *Ice Watch* from 2014. Ice Watch was 30 blocks of ice that were placed in the middle of London where people could see them melt, to try and highlight what climate change is doing to the environment (Gunseli Yalcinkaya, 2018). I think it could make quite an impact if I had one big block of ice as an installation piece in the middle of the Mission Gallery so people could see it and have the 360 experience as soon as they walk in and are able to see it melt as they go around the exhibition and see the change from when they first go in to when they leave. Due to the scale of the ice block I would have to think about reducing the amount of artworks I include within this exhibition, because I do not want to overwhelm the viewer if there were loads more pieces, because I feel like less is more when it comes to exhibitions, particularly when it comes to looking at such topics like climate change.



Fig 1. *Ice Watch*, Olafur Eliasson

I also believe that Romona Galardi's *And Blood Will Fall* from 2017 would be an interesting piece to include due to the message it conveys of how climate change is affecting humans though we have "actively played part of" it (Nathalie Soo, 2020). This piece is a mixed media collage showing animals and the environment surrounded by what looks like blood, which shows the impact that climate change has on nature. It was made to show that us humans have little to no consideration of how our actions would effect our planet (Ramona Galardi, 2017). I think this piece would be good to hang on the wall within the rounded room so people could go from seeing *Ice Watch* to this so they could see more of an effect of what they are playing a part in causing.



Fig 2. *And Blood Will Fall*, Romona Galardi.

Alexis Rockman's *Green Sea Turtle* from 2014 is also a powerful piece that I think could be a powerful piece to include within my exhibition. This piece, along with a lot of his other work, is Rockman showing how animals struggle from the toxic conditions that we humans have put them in (Art Works For Change, n.d.). This piece is 61cm by 45.7cm so it would fit nicely on the wall in the Mission Gallery and it would stand out on the wall with a plain background. For this piece I think it would be good to put it opposite the *And Blood Will Fall* piece to show more of the effects it is having on the wild life and environment.



Fig 3. *Green Sea Turtle*, Alexis Rockman.

I would also really like to include David Attenborough's 2019 documentary *Climate Change- The Facts*. This documentary looks at what causes climate change and how it is affecting the environment like the weather and the wildlife and animal habitats (David Attenborough, 2019). I think having a David Attenborough piece within the exhibition would work really well because he is a smart, well known man, and all of his work is very popular across all generations, so it could attract people to go and visit the exhibition where they learn more about climate change and how to prevent it from worsening. I think it would be really good to have this playing on repeat in the small box room with some headphones on so the viewer would be able to watch it with no distractions and able to leave it whenever they want to. I believe that having this documentary playing in the small space would help the viewer empathise more with the issues being raised within the documentary due to it being more of a personal experience as it is in more of a closed in area with headphones, allowing them to take in the information more.



Fig 4. *Climate Change- The Facts*, David Attenborough

Exhibition Layout

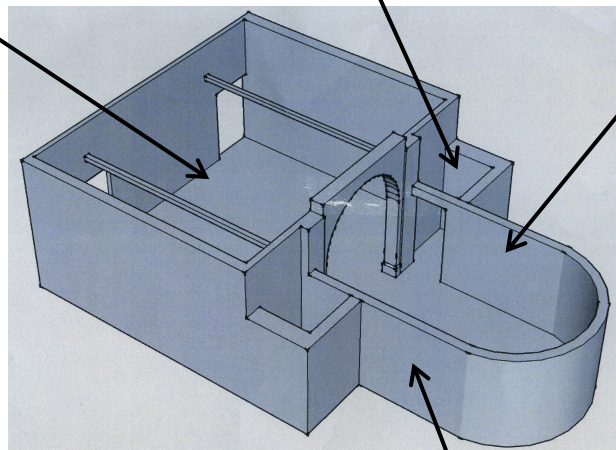
The 360 view whilst it slowly melts could be powerful because the viewers can see how real climate change is.



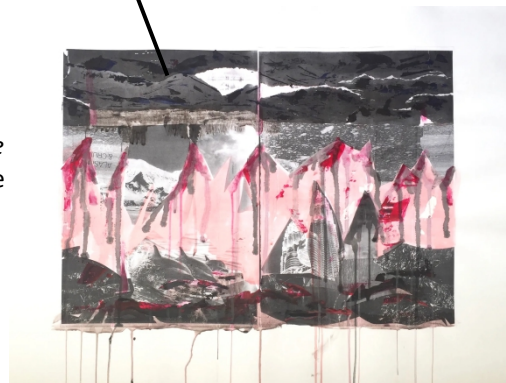
The experience of having this playing in the small room could work really well because it will allow the viewer to take in all the information given in the documentary.



I think the size of this piece on the 12 foot plain wall would work really well because the colour on the piece would make it stand out, so it could have a lot of impact on the viewer.



I think this piece being so close to *Ice Watch* could work as a shock factor to the viewer because it is quite gruesome compared to *Ice Watch*, so the viewer might not expect to see something like this.



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List of Figures

Figure 1. *Ice Watch*, (2014) Accessed from <https://olafureliasson.net/archive/artwork/WEK109190/ice-watch> [Accessed on 20th April 2021].

Figure 2. *And Blood Will Fall*, (2017) Accessed from <https://www.ramonagalardi.com/art#/devastation> [Accessed on 21st April 2021].

Figure 3. *Green Sea Turtle*, (2014) Accessed from <http://www.artnet.com/artists/alexis-rockman/green-sea-turtle-chelonia-mydas-aiKAZnZlCpZnZYmCF4CrIDw2> [Accessed on 21st April 2021].

Figure 4. *Climate Change-The Facts*, (2019) Accessed from <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Climate-Change-The-Facts/dp/B07S6JVDDN> [Accessed on 20th April 2021].