

Ways of Perceiving
Curation, Space and Place

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Entitled 'Explode', my exhibition reflects 'War'. I plan to create an exhibition presenting four digital paintings by four different artists. Directing attention on the Coventry Blitz, which was a series of explosive bombings attacks that took place on the English city of Coventry during the second world war. Buildings were consumed by flames. Across the city, people were crawling out from under-stairs cupboards and hastily made bomb shelters. "April 1941 Coventry was subject to another large air raid when 230 bombers attacked the city, dropping 500 tons of high explosive and 25,000 incendiaries. In this and another raid, two nights later on 10/11 April about 451 people were killed and over 700 seriously injured." War is a controversial subject, not only because of the suffering, loss, and destruction involved. The memory of war often forms part of a nation's self-image. Taking a critical approach towards past wars may, therefore, provoke accusations of being unpatriotic. I have taken a diverse approach, to not criticise, but to enlighten and to give a different perspective and understanding about the subject and situation.

My exhibition will be held in the Cathedral Church of St Michael, more known as Coventry Cathedral which was rebuilt after the bombings. "Coventry Cathedral, dating from the 14th century, suffered a firestorm leaving it a virtual shell with only the tower and its spire still standing." The rebuilt cathedral is a symbol of hope and reconciliation in a future world free from conflict. They are open in times of national crisis and celebration and act as crucial points in their communities. They provide non-threatening spiritual spaces for people.



Fig One

I have selected pieces of work that are relevant to the bombings and to highlight the importance to end wars by depicting their brutality and chaos but also paying respect to the soldiers and people. I would transform this space into a digital art exhibition using projectors that push the boundaries of art with mesmerising digital works, making digital technology expand the conception of art. Including air, sounds, heat, lighting, and water purifiers creating a multi-sensorial experience that also include

work from digital artists showing stylised illustrations and artworks. These pieces of art show the bombings through a different perspective making it modern, with a fantasy twist so the target audience can also aim towards the younger generation, as well as adults and the elderly. "Digital art is an artistic work or practice that uses digital technology as part of the creative or presentation process. The impact of digital technology has transformed activities such as painting, drawing, sculpture, and music/sound art."



Fig Two

Simon Cowell is from Sydney, Australia. Cowell's theme is fantasy, he studied in 3D and traditional art and is now a freelance concept artist. I have chosen this powerful and thought-provoking piece by Cowell to be displayed on a digital screen, by the organ, which is a musical instrument the cathedral supplies, playing Hubert Parry - Elegie (1918) - James Garratt as a memorial for those who fell in the war. A strong gust of wind by air purifiers with a high flow will surge. Untitled (hero) is oppressive, yet enchanting and honourable for those who died. The wings depict heaven, freedom, and make a connection between spirituality and heaven. Visually, Cowell's art is specifically stylized, with strong thin linework and meticulous attention to detail. Mindful that the immense loss of these brave soldiers should not be forgotten, this artwork is chosen to focus on their absence. 'German bombers drop 500 tonnes of high explosives and nearly 900 incendiary bombs on Coventry in 10 hours devastating much of the city and destroying the Cathedral.' The greatest concentrated attack on a single city in the war to that point in 1941.



Fig Three

David Villegas is a digital concept artist based in the Philippines. Villegas's expertise includes stylized character and hyper-realistic and creature designs. This thorough dynamic digital art piece will be displayed on the media wall in front of the entrance. Untitled (catastrophe) is the largest piece in this room and will be the first artwork to be seen while entering the room. It is the bombing of Rome in World War II. Air purifiers will simultaneously purify and heat this space. The transition will reveal the disastrous damage caused by war. This piece is extremely attentive to accuracy and detail. I have chosen this artwork as it holds emotion and a strong message, is there any way of delivering mankind from the menace of war? It is destructive to people and the world and this artwork reveal the chaos. "You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace. Power to the peaceful."- Michael Franti. The first slide arrays well-built, sturdy architecture with a graceful atmosphere. The second slide deviates rapidly from the catastrophic bombings and then displays the brutal aftermath.

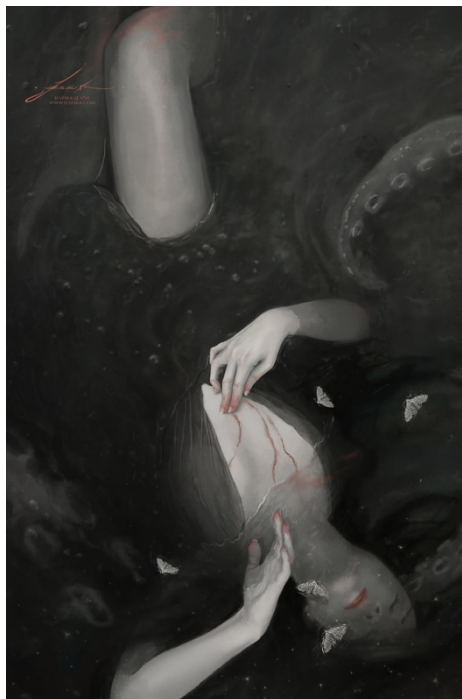


Fig Four

Jeszika Le Vye is an imaginative realist painter whose work uses natural imagery to delve into psychological and philosophical themes. Vye describes herself as an “imaginative realist painter”, combining her loves of Classical Realism with a passion for fantasy and sci-fi. This artwork entitled cocoon is a digital art piece. This space will have spray nozzles which is a precision device that facilitates dispersion of liquid into a spray, as this subject is a despairing, emotional piece that connects with tears and grieving. Universally, water is symbolic of purity, fertility, life, motion, renewal, and transformation. “The profound symbolism of water comes from its two vital qualities – it is most essential for the existence and it cleanses and purifies things by washing away impurities”. I am intrigued by the vigorous nature of her work. The detail is grand and impressive in appearance. This design provokes a feeling of sadness and realisation. I find this piece to be dark, yet attractively unusual and old-fashioned. “Insurgence and all forms of evil in a society doesn't describe her as a failure, but vividly shows a lack of love for one another.” — Michael Bassey Johnson



Fig Five

Mirella Santana is a freelance artist based in Bahia, Brazil. Santana specialises in creating cinematographic arts and studies illustrations with varied concepts and styles. Entitled ‘Rising’ this enchanting and flamboyant digital artwork will be displayed in an open space with bold lighting to accentuate the detail, colour, and shape of this exhibit and to symbolise resurrection, which is shown in this piece. The performance of light and dark can be used to great effect in display environments. Dramatic tension can be formed in a darkened exhibition space due to narrow beams of light pierced through the darkness, drawing the visitors’ gaze to the pieces

on display. As Coventry and the cathedral have been rebuilt, I see that as a way of it being resurrected, to find peace and new beginnings. This piece to me personally is characterized by elegance and displays outstanding beauty. An angel free from despairs and the absence of hope. I believe the time has come for us all to embrace and visualise the idea of a world without any war. We will not have a world free of difficulty, misunderstandings, and conflicts, but we will create new ways to deal with them.

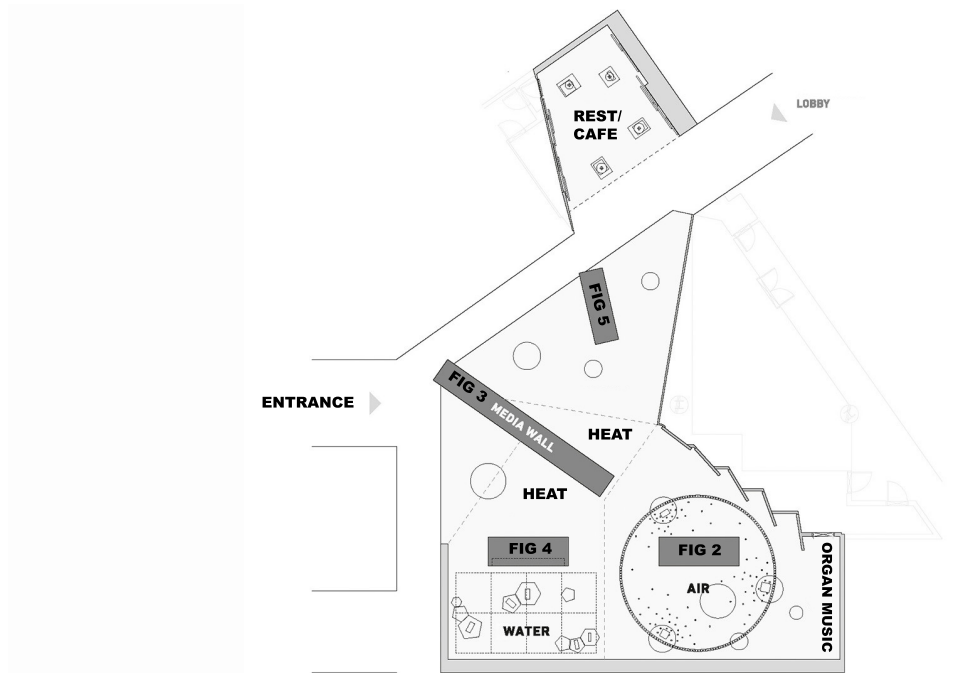


Fig Six

As portrayed above in fig six, on almost 400 m² my exhibition space is coordinated to have an easeful sense of direction with a media trail holding five topics that are heat, water, air, lighting, and music. Music helps frame the atmosphere for the intended experience. The technology and naturality turn it into a thought-provoking premium look-and-feel. This exhibition will provide opportunities to connect with the local community. There will be a café as it is enthralling to walk through an exhibit on one's own or with others and then sit and discuss it with friends and family. I have taken inspiration from each piece; I am intrigued to experiment with my digital artwork and form captivating work using real scenarios and alternating the subjects using vigorous twists. Each piece holds dexterous abilities which shows having a skill, especially with the hands. Using digital software with tablets and computers is adaptable as you can easily adjust the progress. The outcomes can be magnificent and abnormal, you can create anything you set your mind to.

Figures

Fig.one: David Ross. (2010) [interior] Cathedral, Coventry.

Fig.two: Simon Cowell. (2018) *Untitled (Hero)* [Digital].

Fig.three: David Villegas. (2017) *Untitled (Catastrophe)* [Digital].

Fig.four: Jeszika Le Vye. (2018) *Cocoon* [Digital].

Fig.five: Mirella Santana. (2019) *Rising* [Digital].

Fig.six: Georgia M. (2020) *Exhibition Map* [Digital Generated Image].

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