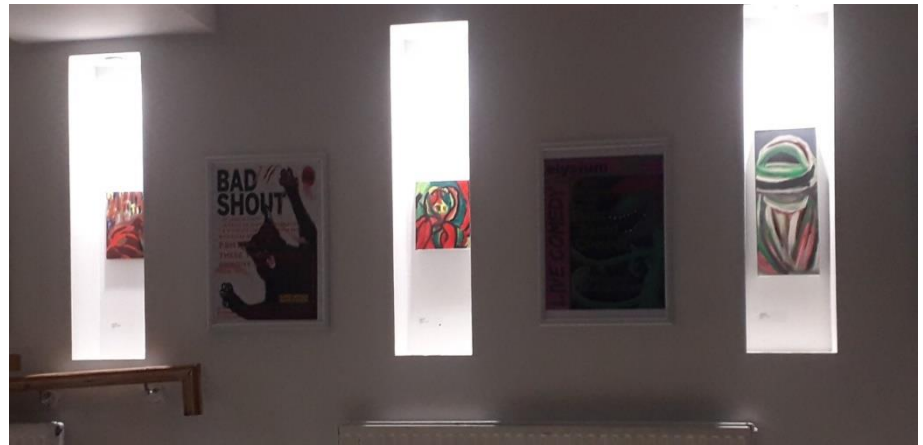


Learning in the digital era

Looking into the light

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Elysium gallery (Elysium Gallery, n.d.)

Lighting is an important factor when it comes to exhibitions because it affects how the audience will view the displayed artwork and how engaged they are. Different types of light can be used and they hold different effects. (world, n.d.)

The Elysium gallery used light in their exhibit in a very interesting way. They used light to direct the audience's eyes toward the artwork and blocked out anything around the artwork. In the first image, the lights are positioned from above shining directly onto the art pieces. The lights above act as a spotlight and they are out of the way so the viewers don't get distracted. The spotlight allows the viewer to focus solely on the piece of artwork. (RC Lighting, n.d.)

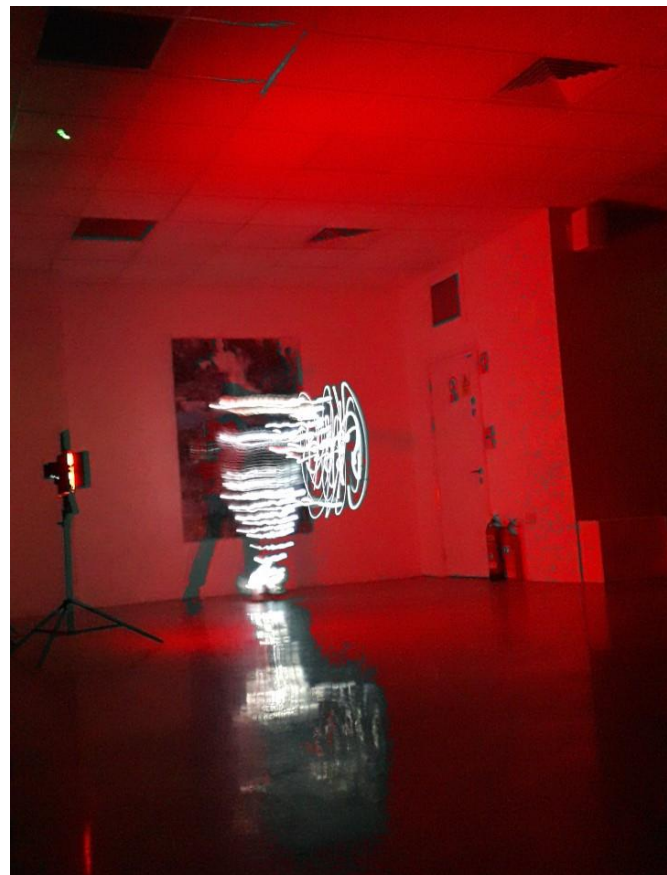
In the second photo, the artwork is brought back into the wall and there is a light around the entire of the artwork. This creates a contrast between shadows which is a skilful use of light because it stands out for people to see.



Cardiff national museum (Museum Wales, n.d.)

In the first image, the room is dimmed with a low-intensity light highlighting the animals. The museum has done this because these animals are from natural wildlife and to make it seem more realistic, they have created artificial natural light. This is engaging for the audience as this is something they don't get to see often so this display intrigues them due to curiosity.

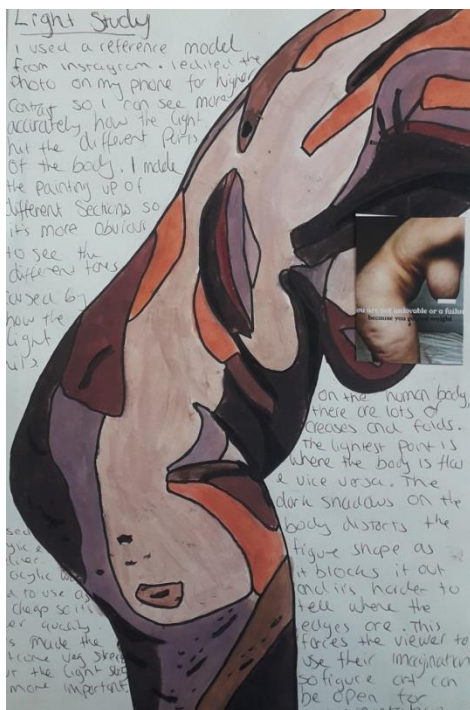
In the second image, there is a range of crystals on display. Due to there being lots to look at, there is one main light for all the crystals instead of individual lights. This is so the crystals are viewed as one in the same category. This is not a good use of lighting because there are a lot of details on crystals and each crystal is different so the viewer doesn't get to look at each crystal in more depth individually.



In this workshop, I was looking at creating art with light using exposure. I was able to do this on my phone by recording moments in time in different lengths of exposure time to get different results. I also used different light sources to see how the outcomes would be different. The different types I used during this were fairy lights, flashlights, sweet wrappers, and a coloured light. The fairy lights created a thin stringy look as it was able to move faster and more lights were being used. This was also good to create work with more shapes due to being able to move it faster. Using a flashlight was very different from this because it created more of a bulky, blunt look and worked best for simple shapes which gave me more control over what I was making. I added coloured sweet wrappers over the flashlight to get coloured light. Coloured light changes the outcome because colours hold associations e.g., red connotes anger or love and blue connotes sadness or tranquillity. Using the big light source created contrast within the pieces because the white light and colour contradict each other. An artist who looks at light exposure that I am interested in is Janne Parviainen (1973). He creates a lot of figures within his exposure artwork (Anon, 2010). This links to what I did as in one of the images I took, the light is wrapped around the person lights which gives a figure look outcome.



A workshop I did was cyanotypes. I processed them in the natural daylight but the weather affected the outcome. To process cyanotypes, there needs to be lots of light shining directly on them but on this day, there were grey skies with the sun hiding behind the clouds. This resulted in a very poorly processed outcome. Next time I do cyanotypes, I will check the weather beforehand so I know when the right time to do it is.



Here, I did light study paintings. I wanted to explore how the light hits different parts of the human body so I used different lighting effects on my images to see how they differ. The first image is from Instagram and I edited the contrast on my phone. This created darker shadows so I was able to see where there were more shadows on the body. I sectioned the painting to separate where all the light is different. In the second image, I was in a dark room with one small lamp used as a light source. This distorted the image as the hand became less visible so when painting it, it didn't look like a complete hand. I found out from this that darkness doesn't allow us to see things as they are. Finally, in the third painting, I wanted to explore shadows. I took a regular selfie in good lighting which I then edited the shadows on. I was able to have control over the light in my image by using artificial lighting. I also edited the colour which gave me a range of pink tones. While doing light studies, I looked at the artist Anthony McCall(1946) and his use of shadows within his photography. I took inspiration from his artwork because he looks at the contrast between light and shadow and I specifically am interested in how a lot of his work has a focal point which is why I did a focal light point in one of my studies. (The Hepworth Wakefield, 2013)

In conclusion, my findings from working with light were that different light environments alter how the world around us is seen so there is never an accurate representation of how it looks as light influences proportion and details. Light can distort what we are seeing or highlight specific parts. In my future practice, I will look more into light as I have never thought about it in great depth before but it is very important in how we perceive artwork.

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