

Exhibition Writing Task

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Illustration

Contextual Studies

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Children and art both start out as an idea, something that needs nurturing before they grow into something spectacular. For art it's the processes of deciding the colours, compositions and tone, doing rough drafts and adding more paint, for children it's care, attention and love which will help them flourish. By fostering creativity in children at a young age we can help nurture both them and art.

In a Ted-Talk named "Do Schools Kill Creativity?" Sir Ken Robinson explores the state of our education systems, with a focus on the creativity within young children. The environment he describes is not one that serves to nurture children or their creativity, it's one that transforms them into workers.

"We don't grow into creativity, we grow out of it ... or rather, we're educated out of it"

(Sir Robinson, k. 2007)

The quote highlights the potential issues modern education may be contributing to, particularly when he talks about the act of making a mistake. His argument follows that art is heavily linked to critical thinking and making your own decisions which lead to mistakes and successes, children are prepared to take chances and make mistakes, but this is frightened out of them through education, which leads to a lack of creativity.

"If your not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original".

(Sir Robinson, k. 2007)

Children need to know it's okay to make mistakes and their creativity praised, if not they will likely face difficulties later in life as it's fundamental to be creative, critical and flexible in how we live. An article from the European journal of education states:

“Creativity is widely acknowledged as vital for social and economic innovation and development as well as for individual well-being.” (Collard, Looney, 2014, pp.1)

As an opening statement it's intent is clear that, creativity is an important factor for the development of an individual as well as for the world we inhabit in many ways. My intent with this exhibition is to inspire children with art, show them potential possibilities and tell them that they and their ideas have a place in this world, to foster in them a sense of hope and creativity. Behind the scenes will be parent and teachers responsible for the upbringing of these children, the exhibition also serves to illuminate the creativity of their children so that they cherish and nurture those values further.

A forethought of mine was for this exhibition to be as accessible as possible, especially as a consideration to those who may not get the opportunity to visit exhibitions. Art is something every child is entitled to explore, experience and create; a sentiment shared by the educational institute I am a student of. The UWTSD is partnered with a programme named Reaching Wider, it's aims are to:

“Increase participation in higher education by people from underrepresented groups and communities in South West Wales.” (University of Wales Trinity Saint David, n.d.)

It is especially important I think for those who are underrepresented to get opportunities they need, by making this exhibition one that visits schools or similar public places which are safe and accessible for children, so that every child should get the same chances as each other. I believe it is very important to be inclusive to all children, as to help in their development. In the Tate article “Why Study Art?” it states

“Studying the arts alongside other subjects significantly boosts student achievement. Schools that integrate arts into their curriculum show improved student performance in Maths, English, critical thinking and verbal skills.” (Tate, n.d.)

This is relevant to all children but especially relevant to those who are underrepresented and don't have access to arts, as it may help them in other subject areas to achieve a better future, which leads to one of the core messages of the exhibition, the nurturing of children. Although art focused with heavy ties to creativity my goal here isn't to create a new generation of artists but to support children, to give them something hopeful and fun that they can carry with them throughout their lives, something that might help them. The subjects displayed in the exhibition will

also display pieces that are hopeful, fun and appealing to children to follow along with these themes.

After the exhibition has been set up, in a large hall or series of classrooms depending on the venue, groups will be segmented into one- or two-year groups at a time, they need to be small enough that everyone isn't distracted by each other and gets a fair shot at the experience. Separating by years also allows them to be more comfortable with it just being children their age. This would also allow any responses they have to be contained within a particular age group, seeing how different ages respond would give neatly organized feedback to how children of different ages see art.

Each are of the room is labelled from 1-5, indicating a sort of progression the children can take, but It's also made for them to be access whatever they're interested in. At each table someone would be there to tell them about the piece, answer questions and question the children to make them pounder on art, creativity and themselves, appropriate based on their age such as "what do you think of this painting" or "what does this make you feel".

The first piece would be a replica of Claude Monet paintings of water lilies. I have chosen these pieces as I wanted to include art that was somewhat historical, that most would think art is: a painting by someone famous. Children might not subscribe to this view, but I think it's important for them to see something like this, to see what others might expect art to be and to show how some art looked centuries ago. Specifically, I chose Monet's work as it's vibrant and colourful, you can see the brushstrokes, so it clearly looks like it's made by someone. I think lots of other famous artists works might be too intimidating or eerie for younger children, water lilies also symbolize innocence, purity, hope and other positive connotations so I thought it was appropriate for the subject I am tackling with this exhibition.



Figure 1- (Monet, 1840-1926)

Following suit, I want to showcase the works of Eiichiro Oda, and his manga "One Piece". Providing some physical comics to read but also showcasing some of his artworks as to ensure that his art style with colour is seen and the comic format of art. I want to shatter the preconceptions that all art are paintings immediately, art can be sequential, it can be a story, something fun and out of this world. One Piece

embodies all these things, but the art is very stylized, colourful and would appeal to children. Showing them a something made from many smaller drawings to create one whole piece of art or narrative may broaden their ideas of what art could be, knowing their favourite books or stories could be illustrated might give them a new perspective.

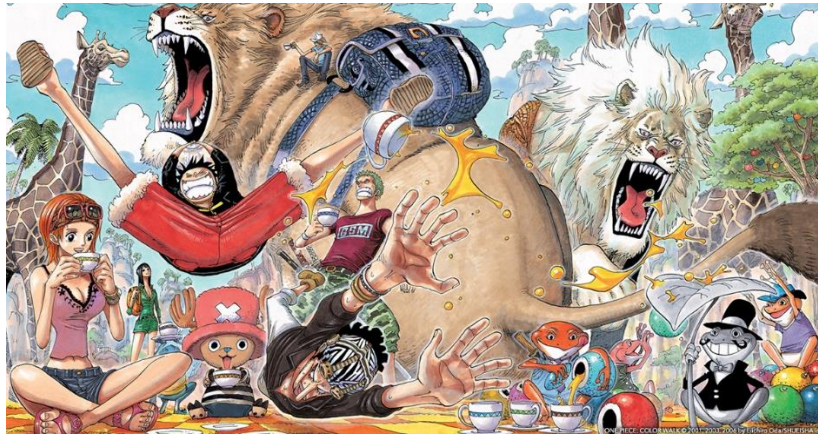


Figure 2- (Oda, 2018)

To expand on what art could be further, the exhibition would feature a piece of animation, while I could use a well animated sequence from a well-known children's movie, I think Glen Keane's short but beautiful "Duet" fits perfectly as something that shows how much creativity the medium possesses. It's fluid but has simple visuals where you can see every line as if it's a series of sketches. I believe this is an important detail as it gives the quality that someone drew this and so could any of the children watching when they grow up. The film is about 3 minutes long and is loopable, starting with the birth of a baby, watching two children grow up and live their lives ending with them kissing, a bright flash of life indicates a new child is born as if it's a cycle of life. The film fits in well with the exhibitions themes of giving hope to children showing them life is beautiful through a piece of art and animation.



Figure 3- (Keane, 2014)

The fourth piece is where the exhibition gets more abstract, at this stage there would be a display of many different things, perhaps another video showcasing what art could be, music, poetry, dance, sculpting, photography, cooking. All these things coming together to show them that creativity and art is varied, it would be a disservice to be ridged and show just 5 art pieces for this topic. An animation or large mural could be constructed using a myriad of techniques to show them what art could be, this is purely to open their eyes and inspire them to be creative, to do what they want and give them some ideas.

The final piece or phase is the children themselves; they are the idea that's grown into something so much more, but to put this into an exhibition they would then create their own art and use their creativity. It would be difficult if they wanted to make music or sculpt, but paper, pencils and regular art supplies would be provided for them to draw, write or create whatever they would like. Finally, they can keep

what they've made if they wish but as part of the final piece, creating a wall with all the previous pieces on could lead to a beautiful piece with contributors from many children, or an online gallery/mural with every piece.

This exhibition was created to nurture the creativity within children, to show them that their creativity can lead them to limitless places in life. Outside of the children it serves to question the system of education we give to children and their upbringings and presents an opportunity that focuses on nurturing them as opposed to educating them so that they may lead hopeful and happy lives.

Bibliography

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Sir Robinson, K. (2007) Do Schools Kill Creativity [video]. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbY&list=WL&index=35&t=1s>

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Figures

Figure 1 - Monet, C. (1840 – 1926) Water Lilies [Oil on Canvas]. Available at: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/claude-monet-the-water-lily-pond>

(Other pieces in the series in various other galleries)

(Accessed:24/03/2021)

Figure 2 -Oda, E (2018) One Piece Colour Walk Compendium Cover. Available at: <https://www.viz.com/blog/posts/one-piece-color-walk-compendium-is-a-treasure>

(Accessed:24/03/2021)

Figure 3 -Keane, G (2014) Duet. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0XILaB7pE4

(Accessed:24/03/2021)