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Task: Curate an exhibition= 1458 Words

For this assessment, I confirm that I have not used Generative AI to support me in structuring my submission, including creating a draft argument structure, identifying parts and headings. I confirm that I have not used Generative AI to create text for my submission. I confirm that I have not used Generative AI for creative materials, such as images.

Embrace the Night.

This exhibition has been curated to raise awareness on the ongoing and increasing issue of light pollution. From night sky's of constellations that many can't see to the more serious effects light pollution has on our wildlife, each piece of work has been carefully chosen to both shock and inspire people to make a change on a topic that is not spoken about enough when it comes to the many pollutions in our world. As Angela Edwards expresses "Art has long served as a compelling medium to express emotion." (2023, Art and Emotion – How Artists Convey Feeling Through Brushstrokes) And therefore evoking and using emotion offers a heavily impacting outcome when it comes to raising awareness on something we can control that is affecting lives around us.

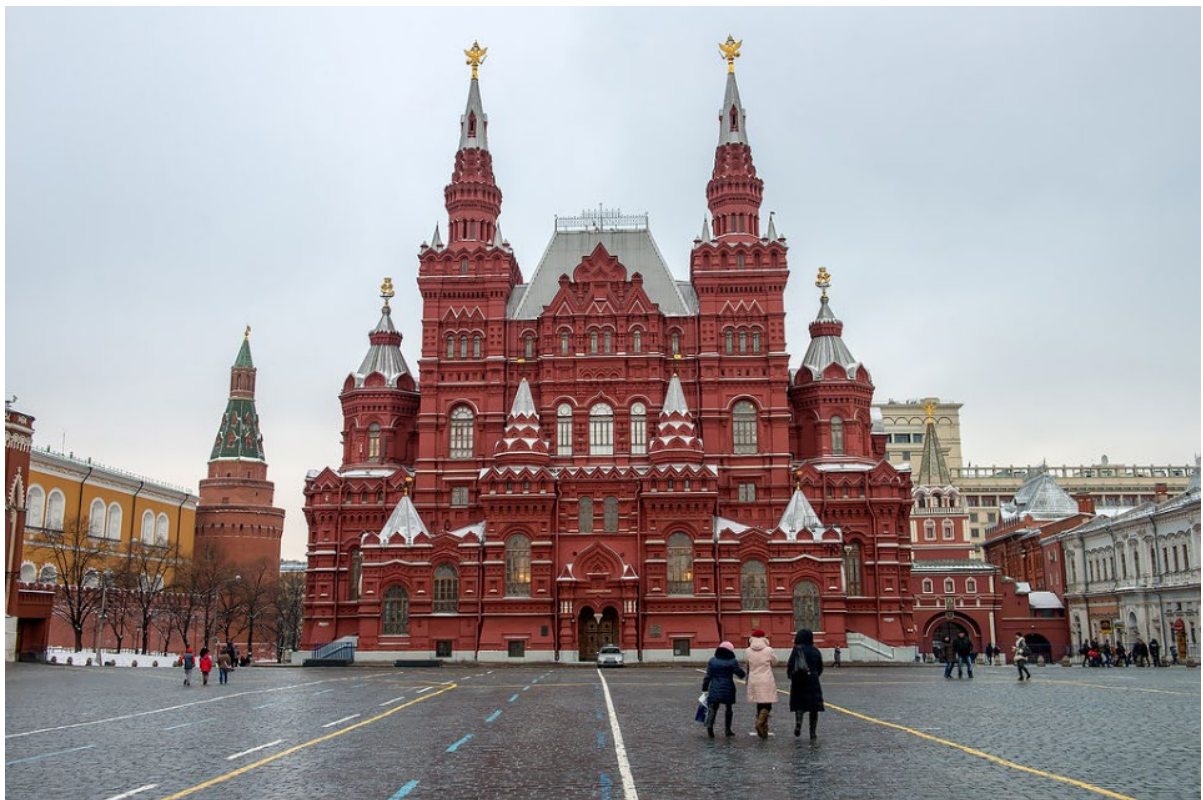


Fig 1. (Globetrekimages, 2014. State Historical Museum, Moscow, Russia.)

This exhibition will be held outside the doors of The State Historical Museum in Moscow. I decided upon this location due to Moscow being the most heavily light polluted city in the world coming in at “8.1 Times Brighter.” (Kadaba. D, 2018. Big Cities, Bright Lights: Ranking the Worst Light Pollution on Earth. The Revelator.) Compared to the Global Urban Average, therefore, to make a significant impact and ensure many people experience this exhibition we must shout loudest from the source. This location is also an exceedingly popular tourist attraction and therefore ensures many different people from all over the world can experience and learn from this exhibition.



Fig 2, (Van Gogh. V, 1889. Starry Night.”)



Fig 3 (jpaiano, 2022. Heavy Light Pollution, Reddit, r/Astronomy)

For my first two pieces within the exhibition, I wanted to tackle the issue of sky glow from two different perspectives. Sky glow is described as “the rusty orange haze cast by the massed lights over a wide area.” (Owens. S, Richards. S & Vamplew A, 2022. An Astronomer’s guide to light pollution. BBC, Sky at night Magazine.) Sky glow is caused by light pollution in densely populated areas and is the reason we can’t see the stars as clearly within those areas. Sky glow can hinder our vision so much that we can go from being able to see “mag +6.5 with the naked eye” (Owens. S, Richards. S & Vamplew A, 2022. An Astronomer’s guide to light pollution. BBC, Sky at night Magazine.) to just a handful of simple first magnitude stars.

The painting by Van Gogh known as ‘Starry Night’ has been included within my exhibition to display to the public the night sky they are missing because of sky glow. Using this

painting in my exhibition allows Starry Night to be viewed from a perspective it has never been viewed from before, while the audience will still be in awe of this masterpiece it will hopefully arise a more sombre emotional response in the context of light pollution as the audience realises that they may never see the beauty of the night sky just like Van Gogh did when inspired to paint such a remarkable masterpiece. As well as evoking an emotional response, using such a famous piece from an incredibly famous artist would encourage more people to come to my exhibition even if just for the art they may then be inspired once they learn what the exhibition is about.

As for the other piece showcased instead of showing what could be it shows the reality of light pollution, the cloud above the telescope indicates the haze that sky glow creates blocking out our vision from the galaxy above. Putting these paintings side by side, while depicting different realities, come together to form one coherent message on the state of light pollution in today's world impacting the audience's view with facts and reality evoking a strong emotional response as people are more likely to make a change if their lives are actively affected.



Fig 4 (Richardson. J, A leatherback turtle struggles ashore to lay her eggs, Nat Geo image collection.)



Fig 5 (Breyer, M. Disoriented by light, many warblers, thrushes and other songbirds collide with buildings in New York City, NWF.)



Fig 6 (De Peak. S, Thousands of moths swarm around floodlights, Getty Images.)

Although it is upsetting to hear how light pollution is dimming the beauty of our world there are much more pressing matters when it comes to the effect it has on our wildlife. Light pollution has shown to affect animals big and small in many ways especially ways in which are vital to their routine and survival, to raise awareness of this I included three photos of animals exposed to light pollution while the bird image possibly quite hard to look at for some people it shows the reality of the effects light pollution is having on our wildlife as it's commonly mistaken that light pollution only affects our vision to see the stars at night while this is far from the truth.

Sea turtles are among the many creatures affected by light pollution, they bury their eggs where they themselves were born however, "On urban beaches, this instinct leads them astray. Bright lights of the city can take them inland, into hardscapes and across

roads, where they fall into sewer gutters and encounter cars and predators.” (Urban Marine Ecology, Towards The Light.) this understandably leads to a high mortality rate among baby sea turtles causing many different species of turtles to feel the knock back effects of this. To demonstrate this upsetting fact, I have included the photograph of a turtle who has returned home to lay her eggs. As we can see in the background the beach is being illuminated by the lights of the buildings around in which unknown to this soon to be mother could be the cause of her children’s demise and many others that return to their once safe home.

Another group of animals that have been highly affected by the growth of light pollution is birds. All different species of birds are affected by light pollution in some sort of way, from dazzling them to causing them to nest earlier there is no short list of the ways light pollution has been seen to negatively affect these feathery creatures. To show the extent of this effect I have included an image of 23 deceased birds all of which have been dazzled by lights and therefore crashed into buildings and windows. Not only does light pollution dazzle birds but “Previous studies have shown night-time lighting has wide-ranging impacts—from reducing pollination by insects to trees budding earlier in spring.” (University of Exeter, 2020. Artificial night lighting has widespread impacts on nature, Phys.org) using such a shocking image while upsetting to some viewers shows the reality of light pollution and hopefully leaves an impact on the severity of the effects it has. While birds are heavily affected these irregularities are not just found within just birds as light pollution has also been found to effect hormones within different animals which could affect things such as “the timing of daily activity in diurnal (daytime) species, and 'life-history' traits such as number of offspring.” (University of Exeter, 2020.

Artificial night lighting has widespread impacts on nature, Phys.org) this could and has started to heavily impact many species of animals even including bugs.

It's common knowledge that bugs and especially moths are attracted to lights as seen in the final photograph of my exhibition however this phenomenon is not harmless. "Night-time light pollution disrupts the lives of nocturnal insects such as moths, ground beetles and glow-worms. It has been established as a cause of insect decline that can impact on the pollination of plants and the health of ecosystems." (Buglife, No Insectinction – how to solve the insect declines crisis.) Ecosystems being affected could affect not just animals' lives detrimentally, but humans lives also as long as the threat of light pollution continues.

Overall for my exhibition I aim to raise awareness of light pollution and for audiences to take this form of pollution much more seriously by providing not just artworks of how it affects our lives tugging on audiences emotions but photographs of how it affects animals lives tugging on shock factor and stating facts that many are unaware of when it comes to the rising issue of light pollution due to other forms of pollutions overshadowing it. Aswell as being much more aware of the effects of light pollution I aim for my exhibition to inspire audiences to start to make a change and turn off their lights at night as well as making changes in their community to help local wildlife allowing both humans and animals to truly 'Embrace the night' In which the title of my exhibition will be named to further impact my audience to take action upon this.

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