

Ways of Perceiving writing assessment

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I have intended to curate an exhibition which showcases the fine art pieces of five artists. The exhibition is named '*Reverie*' which expresses the exhibitions' purpose to allow viewers to enter a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts. The exhibition will showcase five artists that have a common style inspired by romanticism to match the theme of '*Reverie*'. Kathryn Calley Galitz (2009) states that Romanticism was defined as an aesthetic around 1800 but by the early nineteenth century it was described as a movement in art and was recognisable by the new interest in human psychology, personal feelings and interest in nature (Tate, 2021).

The romanticism work displayed in the exhibition will focus on emotionalism elements within the artwork to encourages the viewers to enjoy and respond emotionally to the content. This will make my '*Reverie*' exhibition effective as viewers focus not the nature of the work itself, but on the response and effect that the space and art provide (Hospers, 2016). The romanticism artwork and emotionalism elements will help achieve the desired outcome of my exhibition which would be for viewers to explore their emotions and feel like they're escaping reality and entering a fantasy or daydream.

Emotionalism is an aesthetic and theory of art but for it to be successful it must awaken feelings and moods in the viewer. The main objective of the artwork is to get the viewer's attention in a dramatic way and to impact the viewer's emotions. Nevertheless, an artwork will be classified as emotionalist only if the emotion being expressed was the main purpose of the artwork. (Yundle, 2021)



Fig 1

Jeong & Lee (2006) discovered that exhibition space has the biggest effect on the satisfaction of visitors, what is being displayed and how they are being displayed is greatly important. Hence why I intend to hold my exhibition in the elegant Lichtenstein Castle in Germany.

According to the travel guide Getting Stamped (2020) Lichtenstein Castle is often considered one of the most fairy-tale feeling castles in Germany. Something resembling a fairy tale means it is magical, idealized, or extremely happy (Oxford Languages, 2021). I believe that this location would be the most suitable place to hold my exhibition as the castle will provide the fantasy feeling due to its remoteness (away from the bustle of the real world) and the connotations around the word castle. Romanticism artists often have a deep appreciation of nature, and the beauties of nature (Hospers, 2016) and Lichtenstein Castle is surrounded by nature which prepares the viewer for the atmosphere inside the exhibition.



Fig 2

In the first room on the wall of the entrance, James Jean's artwork "Traveller" - fig 2 will be displayed. I believe that the artwork shows clear characteristics of emotionalism which includes exaggerated colours such as the bright contrasting colours and elongated items such as the flowers and the hair. Emotionalism paintings are original, and this painting stands out as unique and different, it succeeds in creating raw understandable emotion (Benve, 2020).

This artwork is the first to be seen in the exhibition. It has a sadder atmosphere due to the harsh colours, the positioning of the girl and the hair over unicorns' eyes. This is the first piece so that the viewer can reflect on their own emotions which could be caused by the ruthlessness of the real world. Despite the disconsolate atmosphere this piece has clear Romantic themes and uses what Romanticist artists call a hero which in this case is the unicorn who is carrying the girl and gives a feeling of hope (Hospers, 2016). The unicorn is a fantasy animal and the focus of the piece which will relate to my main theme of the exhibition.



Fig 3

Displayed in the next room, in the centre of the room, will be the next piece in the exhibition. This room is to transition from the sadness and deeper emotions from the previous room to a more pure, softer and delightful atmosphere.

The deer symbolises beauty, grace and independence (Wildlife Online, 2021) and is very common in fairy tales which, like the previous piece, relates to my main theme. 'Silence' by Tracy Lewis- fig 3 is a watercolour piece and according to Gerald Fritzler (2021), watercolour is an intimate medium and often responds to personal emotion.

As Tracy Lewis has used the watercolour to express inner emotions in her work it has created a successful romanticism and emotionalism art piece as artists displaying their emotions through art is a characteristic of both theories. This piece triggers clear emotions like compassion and desire due to elements in the piece such as the flowers, which According to FTD fresh (2018) white roses represent new beginnings, and the young deer. The watercolour gives the painting a washed effect and makes the painting feel dreamy which relates to my overall theme.



Fig 4



Fig 5

In the next room, I intended to share the space between two artists. The two pieces will be located on the walls on the right and left of the room as you enter. I feel that the elements in Shanna Van Maurik's painting 'Rêve d'Été'-fig 4 and Audra Auclair's painting 'Release'- fig 5 are both similar and focus on the sensation of touch and feeling.

Both paintings are semi realistic and are stylized. Semi-realism is a form of representational art. It is the style between Impressionism and Realism. The style depends on the brushwork, for example Shanna Van Maurik's painting has loose brush strokes and Audra Auclair's painting has tight detailed brushwork (Adams, 2019). The style not being realistic makes the content feel distant and imaginary which relates to my main theme and the content emphasizes on emotion and feeling rather than focusing on realism which is a clear characteristic of the romanticism style (Wollacott, 2021).

Both paintings have characteristics of the emotionalism aesthetic and have achieved the ability to get an emotional response from the viewer. This is because both paintings use unexpected and bright colours such as pink and yellow. The total design is dramatic and original which gives the viewer a positive definite feeling which is the aim of this space.



Fig 6

In the last room I plan to display 'Proton Candy' by Christian Orrillo- fig 6. This piece is clean and more minimal compared to the previous artwork. I describe this work as minimal as minimalist art offers a highly purified form of beauty and has qualities like colour, simplicity and harmony (Tate, 2021). 'Proton candy' has all these qualities of minimalism and Christian Orrillo has used this style to create a clear expression in his artwork and still make the viewer have an emotional response.

Romantic artists emphasized the imagination and focused on passion, emotion and sensation (Forward, 2014) The pose and the flow of lines in the art piece show that this minimal painting also had romanticism and emotionalism characteristics as the piece feels passionate and allows the viewer to respond easily due to its simplicity. I think that this artwork was suitable for the last piece of the exhibition as it leaves the viewer feeling light and uplifted.

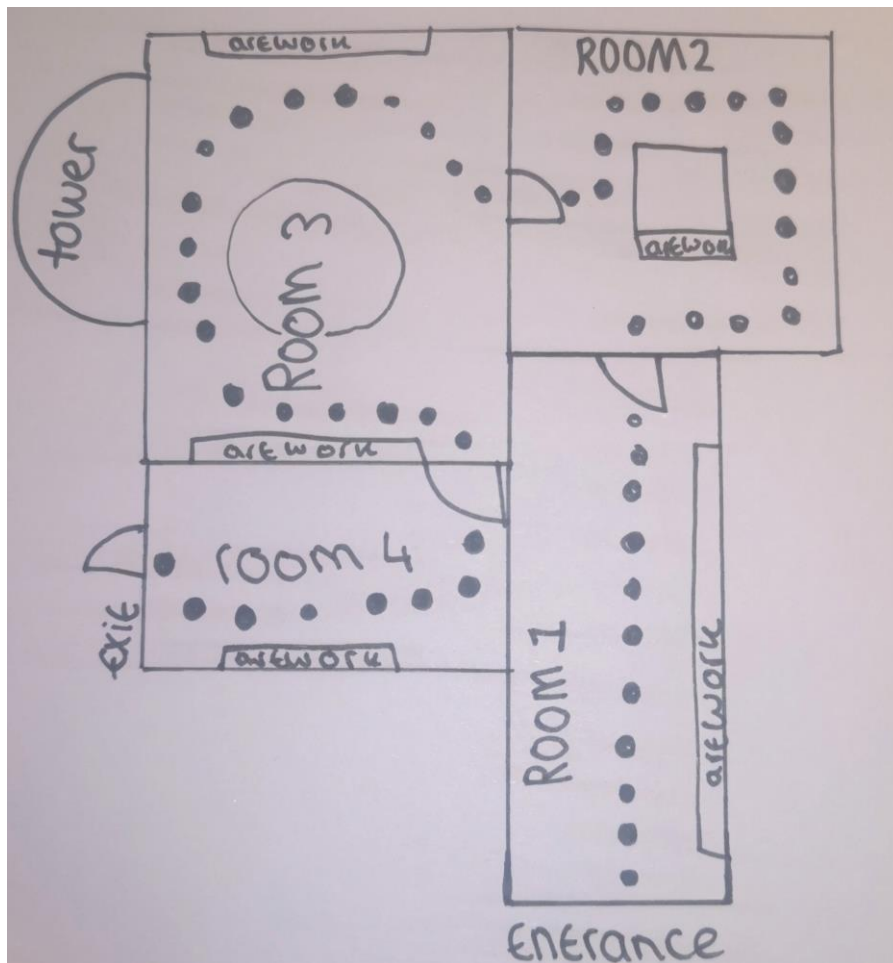


Fig 7

The exhibition is intended to take the viewer on journey to respond and personally experience the emotions in the paintings. Looking at the map above-fig 7. The exhibition is spaced out and flows through each room making the exhibition feel effortless and stress-free which will help get my desired response from viewer: feeling like they're in a daydream. The exhibition will only make use of the castle buildings and not the outside area because the inside of the building is supposed to be completely different to the outside to make viewers feel like they're entering somewhere new.

Dividing the artwork into different and unique spaces only adds to the success of the exhibition as each artwork can be appreciated without any distractions. It allows the possibility to expand the romanticism themes like nature and colour by enhancing the space with decoration, this can be achieved as there are cohesive themes throughout the artwork which can be used to make the exhibition successful (Phillips, 2020). Adding more atmosphere in the room using decoration inspired by the themes makes the space feel real and allows the viewer to, according to Hauser (1951, p.166), become a 'second self', which is normally a romantic verion of oneself present in the mind, in reality.

Meaning rather than escaping in imagination the viewer can escape for a moment in person while in the exhibition.

The emotional response that artwork provided brought together art and life (Rosenthal, 2005, p.59) and allowed viewers to just appreciate the aesthetic of the art and reimage themselves. I believe that 'Reverie' would provide a place for exhausted, busy people to escape and appreciate things around them more such as nature, emotions and sensations.

Figures

Fig. 1: Getting Stamped. (2020) *Lichtenstein Castle* [photograph]

Fig. 2: Jean, J. (2018) *Traveler* [Digital print]

Fig. 3: Lewis, T. (2018) *silence* [Digital print]

Fig 4: Maurik, S. (2019) *R ê v e d' É t é* [Digital print]

Fig 5: Audraauclair. (2017) *untitled* [Digital print]

Fig 6: Orrillo, C. (2019) *Proton Candy* [Digital print]

Fig 7: Draycott, B. (2021) *map of exhibition* [photograph]

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