

Looking into the light

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Exhibition one: Titanic Exhibition London.

- This exhibition was built to represent what it would have been like on the titanic and remembering those lost, when it sank on the 14th April 1912. It displays items retrieved, remade or once owned by victims of the catastrophe- including coins, post cards, furniture, jewellery, photographs etc, which have been displayed in different ways depending on what they are. This exhibition was a way for the facts and myths to be separated apart and the record being set straight. The exhibition took place from the 17.12.21-17.04.22 in South-East London in Canada Water retail park. I thought light would be a key factor in this exhibition due to the time period it being set in, would have had electricity and lighting from candles or port holes in the ship which I think could be interesting to evaluate or see from different perspectives. Especially because the ship sank at night and so accounts reflect the light, or lack of, as a contributing factor to their stories. There is many different styles of displaying and lighting in this exhibition such as the use of plinths, sand boxes and installation pieces.
- One in particular that caught my eye for the lighting aspect specifically, was the three metre sculpture of the titanic itself, with small human figures included for scale. It is entirely lit from the inside with hundreds of small bulbs. It is not stated/ no credits given as to who constructed the piece but we do know it's made of wood. The room this sculpture is displayed in is very dimly lit with only background light from other images being displayed around the room (they are too, lit from within or behind). There is also the blue light emitting from the bottom or underneath of the wooden ship structure, this gives the desired eerie effect as you realise how dark and scary it would have been, next to that ship sinking, in the dark and with freezing temperatures – especially in the water. The lighting throughout the figure is evenly spread and reaches right through at just the right brightness, it's not so dark that you can't see the small details but not too bright as to either, overpower the bulbs or make it hard to look into. The bulbs are a slightly orange tint which is most likely due to safety as the structure is made of (flammable) wood and the fact you have to look into the lights to see inside the structure. It is the first model to have open sides so you can see the layout of the ship from the outside and how different or far the class systems were from each other. This piece would not feel as surreal if there was other lighting in the room disturbing the strange peacefulness about it, or if it just had white lights shining down on it. Overall it emotive, effective and informative.

Sources and links

- (titanicexhibitionlondon.com, n.d.) Titanic: The Exhibition in London. Get your tickets! [online] Available at: <https://titanicexhibitionlondon.com/#info> (Accessed 9.1.2023)

- (tourbuilderplus.imagineear.com, n.d.) Imagineear Tour CMS. [online] Available at: <https://tourbuilderplus.imagineear.com/webapp/GndejL74ZiSzveQwCoqf/0> (Accessed 9.1.2023)

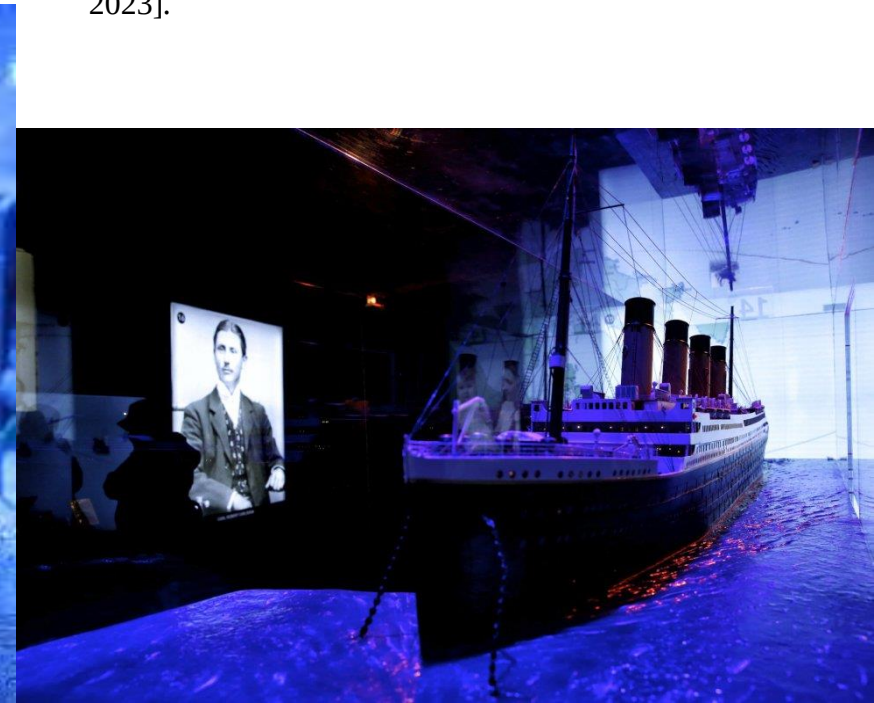
- (www.youtube.com, 2022) The Titanic Exhibition London 3 Metre Model !!! [online] Available at: <https://youtu.be/BCFIU6FbAis> (Accessed 9.1.2023)

- (www.youtube.com, n.d.) Titanic Exhibition London - Exploring The Story Behind The Tragic Maiden Voyage. [online] Available at: https://youtu.be/_Xm-XGZqxtI (Accessed on 9.1.2023)

Image references

(www.youtube.com, 2022) The Titanic Exhibition London 3 Metre Model !!!
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Neverland, J. in (2022). *Titanic: The Exhibition in London · Jenny in Neverland*. [online] Jenny in Neverland. Available at: <https://jennyinneverland.com/2022/02/18/titanic-the-exhibition/> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2023].



Exhibition two: Starry Night

- Starry Night was created in 1889 by the famous Vincent Van Gogh, this is one of his most well known pieces – if not, the most well known. It has been displayed in the Museum of Modern Art since they first acquired it in 1941 and was the first Van Gogh piece they had ever displayed. After Van Gogh had died his work was held by private collectors until the museum received it and it had started to gain a lot of attention. The painting has been displayed in multiple frames over the years including a classic gold frame, black and back with gold details. It is also only protected by non-reflective glass so you can still see it while also being well lit. Due to the fact this is an oil painting it has natural texture and dimension which means you can also get slight shadows if you reflect more light on one side of it than the other, this can be a nice way to get depth – however, when displaying flat pieces of work you usually want to get a flat or even distribution of light so you can see it all at once. It has a lot of bright colours (as well as fewer darker areas), which would make small shadows stand out a lot more, so the way you display and light a piece like this is important. Especially when so many people travel a year to observe it and to photograph it. This piece is never lit directly from above or the sides etc, in any images you see it's displayed in a room with a main source of light on the ceiling and white walls, which will help to reflect the light around the room. The non-reflective glass will help to stop the light reflecting off the screen, further helping you see the whole piece, clearly and at once. You can see in the corner of the rooms on (<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/79802>) 360 page that there are beams on the ceiling holding lights that are projecting directly onto the paintings in the room, focusing the light in their directions. There is other ways to light and display this work such as four lights directly surrounding it at each vertical or horizontal point or two lights either side of it. However, having light so close for a long period of time could cause damage to the painting depending on what lights they are, how big and how close etc.

Sources and link:

Carouthers, P. (2020a). *A Brief History of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'*. [online] Art & Object. Available at: <https://www.artandobject.com/news/brief-history-van-goghs-starry-night>. (Accessed 5.1.2023)

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(Van Gogh Museum, n.d.) Where is The Starry Night? [online] Available at: <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/art-and-stories/stories/where-is-the-starry-night> (accessed 5.1.2023)

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The Museum of Modern Art. (n.d.). *Episode One: 'The Future, the Unknown'* | *Magazine* | MoMA. [online] Available at: <https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/165> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2023].



How I'd light and display my own work: 2D drawing

There is so many ways to display a 2D artwork, firstly you have to think about the method you'll be using such as projecting, displaying on a wall or plinth etc. When projecting work the room will naturally have to be dark, so you can see what the light is projecting (you can do this with 2D, 3D and motion work such as video or VR). With plinths or wall mounts there are multiple places you can position the lights and the piece itself. Personally, if I was displaying a drawing or painting, I would either use a plinth or wall mount with a black frame/ any colour frame that compliments the piece, black just tends to go with everything and will not reflect the light as easily. I do not like gold frames which are typically used because the colour can clash with the art and it is overused in my opinion. The next thing to think about would be how the light effects the piece and how to incorporate light into the piece itself or displaying it. If you are using a frame you need to think about how the light will reflect off it and the screen. For example if you use a silver or mirrored frame this will reflect when a photograph is taken or the person observing may be able to see themselves. With Starry Night mentioned above, they use a non- reflective screen in order to avoid the white flash when you take a picture or encounter an angle the light would reflect while observing it. Another factor to consider here is the colour bulb you use. The colour and tone can cause the viewer to have a specific feeling about the piece or trigger a certain emotion. For example, orange for a warm tone, blue for a cool tone or yellow to represent happiness and white to represent peace, tranquility and sterility etc. Because I have used blue ink in this drawing, a blue or cool toned backing lights such as L.E.D lights would be effective. The room would have to be dimly lit so the colour pops through more, and there would have to be one light source such as a panel behind the paper. Lighting it up from behind to ensure you can still see it in a dark room. If you did not add a panel light or some sort of light source behind the paper, it would be very difficult to make out the details in such a dark room with the only light being faced away, outside of the frame. As this is a square the direction is not too important, but the signature is always in the bottom right corner - indicating which way the piece is directed. In conclusion I would choose to display this piece mounted to a wall by a frame, in a dark room with a backing light behind, the paper and L.E.D lights around the frame.

Sources and links

- Ruddock, J. (2020). *Stunning 'Painting with Light' show at The Art Hour*. [online] Installation. Available at: <https://www.installation-international.com/case-studies/stunning-painting-with-light-show-at-the-art-hour> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2023].
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Own images:

Ruddock, J. (2020b). *Stunning 'Painting with Light' show at The Art Hour*. [online] Installation. Available at: <https://www.installation-international.com/case-studies/stunning-painting-with-light-show-at-the-art-hour>.



How I'd light and display my own work: 3D sculpture

- When it comes to 3D artwork, there is infinite ways to display it, how you do that can contribute to how the lighting effects it. It is usually displayed in accordance to how it is made, a few examples are: jewellery being displayed on velvet and/ or in boxes, small objects on plinths, or large objects and sculptures such as (human) figures on a small stand or the bare floor. 3D art is usually portable, especially on a smaller scale and so this means your able to move it in the light to manipulate how it looks/ how the light affects it - unless the piece is fixed to the ground (again depending on what it is or how it is displayed). I'm going to be referring to a mini wire sculpture T-shirt I made during this term. Personally, I would either display this hanging from a string attached to the ceiling, or on a plinth with a blanket or velvet placed over it. This piece is capable of standing on its own however, it also has a built in hangar and so can face any direction, any place you put it. I would prefer to hang it from a string but it would most definitely be easier to place on a plinth as you can face it in any direction - as well as the lights surrounding it. This would also mean it doesn't move whenever someone walks past or under it as it is not an interactive piece. The lighting for a silver object on a plinth with a black background could be any colour as you would be able to see the metal from any direction, as long as the room is not too dark and you are close enough. It would be best to use a white light as this will reflect off the silver so the brightness of the bulb would not matter too much. I would have a light positioned above the piece if it was up against a wall. The plinth would have to be at least 4-4.5ft so that you can see all the way around it and don't just have a view of the top. This piece is a 360 object so is meant to be looked at from every side, ideally this would mean it would have to be lit up on every side in the middle of the room, or just somewhere you could walk all the way around it. If this were the case I would place two or four lights in opposing/ each corner of the glass around the plinth (depending on how dark the room naturally is). In conclusion I would choose to display this piece on a plinth with some sort of black cover or background, in the centre of a room or to where you can access every side, at about 4/4.5ft tall and lit from two or four sides depending how dark the room is.

- Own images:



Elmira (2019). *National Jewelry Museum of Iran | Ultimate Guide | Photos*. [online] Iran Tourism. Available at: <https://irantourism.com/national-jewelry-museum-of-iran/> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2023].

