

Idea: How does immersive art evoke emotion from the viewer in relation to how the artists manipulate their mediums.

Installation art Claire Bishop a critical history (2005)

My first book is called *installation art : a critical history*, this is a Tate publishing. It describes installation art from 1960s to 2005. This book provides history and a critical examination of installation art. One of the descriptions Bishop gives of installation art is it being “immersive” and it’s something we physically enter and surround ourselves with. A lot of Installation art is a form of immersive art, and Claire Bishop describes a range of these pieces and the reactions of the audience to them. This will directly help me build my research on the emotions that come up in relation to immersion. However, this books history stops on the year 2005 so it doesn’t touch on VR and digital based installations as this is something that has appeared more in recent years, so I lose that comparison of these types of installations to the older installations.

Godfrey M(ed.)(2019) *Olafur Eliasson:In Real Life*. London:Tate

The book *Olafur Eliasson: In real life*, contains an essay by the editor Mark Godfrey- who was a curator for the Tate from 2007 to 2021- discussing some of Eliasson’s more popular works. The book was created in alliance with the exhibition- *In Real Life (2019-2020)* - in the Tate presenting over 40 works of Eliasson’s. Godfrey talks on Eliasson’s interests like colour, light and natural phenomena and the use of these within his works. The book then gives us 18 conversations that Eliasson has had with people who are specialists in their area and who mainly share interests that Ellison also values. The people being interviewed work in areas such as architecture, philosophy, dance, choreography, music, biology and more. With these conversations we get an insight into Eliasson’s thought process and ideals. Eliasson is a good artist for my research because of his work with immersive installations, so being able to see his thought processes it will aid my understanding of the effect and development of immersive art. The book is very modern being only published in 2019 so we have more modern viewpoints unlike Claire Bishops book. Godfrey

explains how people were reacting to Eliason's work which means not only can we understand the artist but also the clear impact it has had on the viewer.

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/04/heather-benning-dollhouse/>

A subsection I want to look at within my thesis is scale of immersive art. This article is about an artist Heather Benning turning an abandoned house into a giant dolls house- 'The Doll House' (2007). Benning filled the house with furniture, painted the walls bright colours and even gave it proper light fixtures. On one side of the house the inside was completely visible to the viewer, but only through a plexi-glass covering. This plexi-glass also prevented people from entering the house just as you would have with a normal dolls house but now it is not scale that is the blocker but a physical barrier. She collaborated with a film maker Chad Galloway and burnt the house down on video. This article and this art piece I can use in my essay because there is a lot of emotion that this piece brings into play including nostalgia, longing and even grief. I also have a personal link to my practice with this piece, but to also brings into question do we have to physically enter an art piece to experience being immersed by it? I can compare this idea to Claire Bishop's book.



Hemmings, J. (2012) *WARP & WEFT Woven Textiles in Fashion, Art and Interiors*. London: Bloomsbury

This book “warp & weft” is about exploring art (fashion and interiors) using woven textiles. A variety of the art looked at in the book are installations, an example of this is artist Gabriel Dawe’s plexus 4 and plexus 3 where he created floor to ceiling installation of thread. This is another link to comparing size to immersion. The installations are large but the material itself is small. I think this book is good to use for my essay as it will present me with new art/artists that I wouldn’t have originally looked at. Another part of the book that interests me is the chapter on light, another subsection of my thesis is about how light impacts viewers emotions in immersive art. This book describes how light couples with woven textiles can created various affects. Light can bounce off the fibres, distribute the light and create shadows against it. The book then provides us with art where this is used. When we think of light in art, woven textiles aren’t what comes to mind, this is a unique section of installations that I can research. The book also references a piece that used light and textiles in the mission gallery in 2008-9 by Ainsley Hillard. This is useful as I know the gallery space well, so I can use my own knowledge of the space within the writing.

Immersive exhibitions are changing the way people consume art. .

(2023).[Video/DVD] NewsHour Productions.

<https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/immersive-exhibitions-are-changing-the-way-people-consume-art>

This resource is a PBS documentary about an immersive gallery in Portland. The video is an interview of an artist Nichole Jenson who co-founded ‘Hopscotch’, which is a warehouse that’s been made into a gallery space for immersive art. We are shown a hand full of the 14 immersive art experiences there which incorporate light, sound and interactivity with the body. They touch on how art can change your perspective on something including your views on immersive art. They say it is often criticized for being more entertainments based. In relation to my essay question, I

could discuss how people feel about going to see immersive art compared to how they feel coming out of one. The video also references a research paper that was written in 2023 called 'Virtual Art Visits: Examining the Effects of Slow Looking on Well-Being in an Online Environment'. The video quotes the paper essentially saying the more immersive an art piece is the higher the emotional response is. I will be reading into this paper more as I continue my research.

<https://research-ebsco-com.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/c/onvpsy/viewer/pdf/77j4kateuj?auth-callid=798947c9-2343-483b-b5d5-5d4f88dbea5a> – The research paper mentioned above.

“higher levels of immersion were associated with feeling more excited, happy, pleasant, content, relaxed, angry, sad, awe, moved, and chills following the gallery visit”