

Ways of Perceiving, Curation Essay

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I am a space devotee so I really wanted to base it around important objects or artwork that I had a liking for. Therefore I have chosen 2 objects, 2 piece/s of art as well as a film piece to represent parts of space history and art related to space. For the location of my exhibition I have chosen the Leicester Space Centre, particularly the planetarium. I chose the Planetarium as it is the biggest in the UK so will be able to store the nearly 6m high engine. Also it seems like an appropriate location for space themed artwork. The massive 180° screen which will have a display of the night sky with the accurate positions of stars so for evening visitors they can observe the sky afterwards. There will be four tv screens around the planetarium which will have the Apollo 11 film playing. The room will have blue lighting representing the sky. The planetarium has a lot of seats so I will remove a lot of them, particularly in the middle where the engine will be. The lighting will be blue and slightly dimmed to give it a feeling that you are in space. This will combine with the carpet which will be dark blue as well as the walls will be the same colour giving the effect that the ground and walls merge together to further create the illusion of feeling like you are in space. *“Buzz Aldrin said something on the moon about a soft landing before 'stage-aware' Neil Armstrong said, “Houston, the Eagle has landed”. People still argue about what the first words were on the moon.”*

For the work I included in my exhibition I wanted to include physical objects that the visitors can walk around. For my first piece I included the biggest rocket engine ever which was the Rocketdyne F-1 engine that was used on the Apollo program from the late 50s all the way to the early 70s. There is so much history and significance for this piece also I think it looks very aesthetically pleasing. This was one of the reasons I used the planetarium as my location as I needed to fit the 5.6m by 3.7m engine inside. I positioned it in the centre of the circular room to make it the centerpiece. It will be the prominent piece that people would want to see for the pure scales and the history of it. People will be able to go up close to see all of the intricate details with the parts and pieces and how they twist and connect. The creator and artist of this piece is the famous Wernher Von Braun who was a German rocket scientist.

Saturn was the largest rocket in the world, the most complex and powerful ever to fly, and remains so to this day. The fact that it was developed for a peaceful purpose is an exception to every pattern of history, and this is one of the legacies of Apollo."

Nwa 7035 or Northwest Africa 7035 is a meteorite from Mars. The reason I chose this particular object is because it is the second oldest object ever discovered. It is said that this object is around two billion years old and contains water inside of it which is more of any other discovered Martian meteorite. This was not seen falling from the sky but was found in 2011 in the Sahara Desert. It was sold in Morocco to an American buyer. This meteorite has been given the nickname 'Black Beauty'. I have always found it fascinating that something can be this old so to have it on display is very important. Also due to its strength it can be held by visitors. It is very dense so they will be able to feel the weight of it and to have a more personal interaction with it. I would like to position this in between the engine and the entrance on a plinth. This is so when you enter you will be able to see the meteorite then the engine behind it. I do not want the meteor to be hidden but clearly visible to show its significance. *"She noted, more than once, that the meteor shower was happening, beyond the overcast sky, even if we could not see it. Who cares if she can kiss? She can see through the clouds."*

I wanted to include a Space Shuttle tile in my exhibition because I think that it plays an important part of the Space Shuttle journey which includes a disaster because of the failure of the TPS. These tiles or the thermal protection system (TPS) are a range of tiles on the belly and the nose of the spacecraft that protect it from the heat of re-entry. These tiles are put through immense temperatures that go up to 1,650°C. There were problems at the start where some of these tiles would fall off. NASA used different materials for different parts of the shuttle. One of these materials is called reinforced carbon-carbon (RCC). This was used on the nose, landing leg doors as well as the edging on the wings. Then silica ceramic tiles were used on part where the temperatures would be below 1,260°C.

I would like to have two on display side by side on which you can feel with the other one where you will not. Also I liked the look of two of the same object just giving a more impressive look to it. As well as that the one under cover will be an unused one while the one on the left will be one used in the first shuttle mission because I feel like they will be the most worn look to them. *"It was different, remember. I realized that for the last fifty thousand science-fiction novels it had still been just a light hanging up there. And now it was...a place."*

In my exhibition I wanted to include four tv screens that would all simultaneously display the 2019 film 'Apollo 11'. These will be displayed 90° from each other in the edges of the room with some seating around but not too much as i want to keep the visitors moving. This is a documentary film that features archived footage that a lot of people have not seen before. It follows the three astronauts Neil, Buzz and Mike as well as the engineers. The runtime is 93 minutes so it would be a bit much to watch the whole film that is why I chose this one where you can just watch parts and then carry on looking at the rest of the exhibits.

For one of my art pieces I wanted to use the famous 'The Starry Night'. This is an oil painting created by the famous Vincent Van Gogh, June of 1889 it would be considered as his magnum opus. The dimensions of this painting is 74cm by 92cm and portrays a sunrise with a village. You can also see the sky which is full of blues and yellows where you can see swirls made from short brush strokes. This is all from his window from when Vincent was in the mental asylum. This shows the post-impressionism of the piece and how Vincent was not just painting the starry sky but the fact that he is trying to portray the emotions that he was going through. I will position this to the left against the wall facing the engine in the centre. *"When I have a terrible need of shall I say the word religion, then I go out and paint the stars."* **Vincent Van Gogh**

For my second art piece I wanted to include 'moonwalk' by Andy Warhol. This piece is a coloured screen print created in 1987. It depicts Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, holding onto the American flag. Neil is coloured in a saturated pink with a linear looking outline for the flag. The cratered ground consists of bright blue. The whole piece seems to have an almost glitchy look to it which I find looks hypnotizing. Because of the location of my exhibition I feel like this would look good as I would have the lighting slightly dimmed making the colours stand out more. This will be placed similarly to the Van Gogh painting although it will be on the right hand side facing the Van Gogh painting through the engine. He also produced other variants with different colours.

At the end of the exhibition I want people to learn and be inspired by space as I feel that has been lost due to not leaving the orbit of earth since 1972 which is nearly 50 years. But I now feel that due to recent companies like SpaceX and NASA are now starting to make new spacecraft which will hopefully ignite our interest in space yet again as John F. Kennedy said *"I believe that this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth."*

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