

Name: Zöe Baillieu

Student Number: 2502700

Course Title: BA Design Crafts

Module: Ways Of Perceiving (ADDA4023/C)

Tutor: Menna Buss

Peace and People – Is the theme for my imagined exhibition. To find connection and peacefully stand up to conflict and persecution, while hopefully finding inner peace too.

Father and son, John and Julian Lennon take you on a journey through their art, an opportunity to...come together.

An activist in the 1960s and 70s, John's message of peace is as relevant today as it was then. Julian is a humanitarian, who is currently working for the well-being of people all over the world.

You will observe many pieces by John and Julian as you meander through the exhibition, but at the core you will find, "Bed-In for Peace", by John and, "Cuba #3", by Julian.

John's drawing (which was transferred to litho paper and then zinc plates for printing) portrays the 'Bed-In', protest that he and Yoko held, using their honeymoon to highlight the conflict in Vietnam and the need for peace.

The first bed-in took place in the Hilton Hotel, Amsterdam in 1969. The press and photographers were invited to interview the newlywed couple and record the event.

Taking the protest to Montreal (as close to the U.S. as they could get), they proceeded to record the chant-like song, "Give Peace A Chance", from room 1742 of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on 1st June 1969. An easy reprise to remember, we can still sing it today.

They certainly made their views about war clear. Today, they would probably use social media, but they found another way, placing 11 billboards in cities, like London and New York, just before Christmas, stating, 'WAR IS OVER! If you want it.' 57 years later, war continues.



Fig.1 Bed-in for Peace, John Lennon. 1969

Julian photographs wherever he travels. As founder and Chief Visionary Officer of The White Feather foundation, which tackles global humanitarian issues, he journeys far and wide. His trip to Cuba, however, was a weeklong whim. With his camera, he was able to capture the retro feel of the place, trapped in a by-gone time. "I found Cuba to be a remarkable country. Frozen in time. You could feel & see that the people here had had a hard life and still do in many respects".

Cuba #3, is a black & white photograph, featuring 3 dishevelled men standing in a jalopy, flat-bed truck. The central figure has turned around and looks directly at the camera while making the international sign for peace, the V shape with his fingers. Nothing is particularly peaceful about the scene. The truck is probably noisy, the men don't seem happy, but right at the centre, there is a sign of peace, of hope. It's for this reason that the image has been chosen to sit at the hub of the exhibition, juxtaposed to John's.



Fig.2 Cuba #3, Julian Lennon. 2018

John Winston Lennon was born on 9th October 1940, during a Nazi-air raid on Liverpool. Brought up by his Aunt Mimi, his mother's sister, in Woolton, his mother, Julia, kept in regular contact with her son and it was Julia who taught ukulele and banjo to John. She was fatally knocked down by an off-duty policeman when John was just 17. His relationship with and the loss of his mother would shape much of his life and influence his music with songs such as, 'Julia', and 'Mother'.

Whilst attending the Liverpool College of Art, John would become close friends with Cynthia Powell and go on to form a relationship. They married in 1962 and had their son, Julian in 1963.

At the turn of the 70s, we saw the end of the Beatles and the beginning of John's second marriage to artist, Yoko Ono. Through it all, John continued to make music, create art and poetry and peacefully protest.

On 8th December 1980, John Lennon was assassinated outside the Dakota Building. He was just 40 years of age. The man who just wanted peace, was born and killed in violent circumstances. Can we still hear his message of peace today?

John Charles Julian Lennon, born on 8th April 1963, known as Julian, would spend the first 5 years of his life with his parents until their separation in 1968. Although John and Julian had a distanced relationship, Cynthia gave Julian the structure, love and support that he needed.

Like his father, Julian too is a musician. He had his first hit, 'Too late for goodbyes', in 1984. His song, 'Saltwater', released in 1991, highlights environmental matters.

In 2007, Julian set-up the White Feather Foundation. The main objectives are to provide protection for indigenous tribes and culture, health, education and conservation. These things help people all over the world.

Pursuing his love of photography, Julian would have his first exhibition in 2010 at the Morrison Hotel Gallery, New York. His friend and fellow photographer, Timothy White, had this to say, "I immediately saw something in the work and recognised that this was an opportunity for him to explore another bit of his creative side, so I encouraged him to explore and begin his journey into the world of photography".

There have been many activists for peace and equality, two of the most well-known are Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

Through peaceful, passive resistance, after being incarcerated and hunger strikes, Gandhi succeeded in bringing down the British Empire in India, but it came at a cost. India was split in two – India and Pakistan. Reactions to this became violent. People who had previously lived shoulder-to-shoulder, now turned on each other.

Gandhi was fatally shot on 30th January 1948, by a Hindu nationalist. This man, who so wanted peace and good living standards for all, was brutally gunned down. He said, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world", but are we capable of being gentle?

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist and Baptist minister in America during the 1950s and 60s.

King initiated nonviolent resistance, such as peaceful protests and marches in the hope of improving racial equality and ending discrimination.

In his, 'I have a dream', speech, 28th August 1963, King covers subjects like equality, brotherhood and freedom. He says this, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise-up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created equal".

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on 4th April 1968, by a white man.

Are we able to fulfil this dream, 58 years later? Have things improved enough? This exhibition would be a place to do something about it, no matter how small, in the pursuit of achieving better lives and peace for everyone.

The exhibition will take you through a labyrinth, believed to bring you peace and help you find yourself. At the centre is the Imagine mosaic, donated by the City of Naples and is the heart of Strawberry Fields, Central Park, New York. The park was based on Birkenhead Park, Liverpool. The site was designed by landscape architect, Bruce Kelly and was opened in 1985. Millions visit the mosaic every year and leave flowers and mementoes. It's situated on the West Side, between 71st and 74th, just a short walk from the Dakota Building, where John lived with Yoko and his youngest son, Sean. Julian also spent time here, "without question, one of my favourite cities in the world, where I lived in the mid-80s."

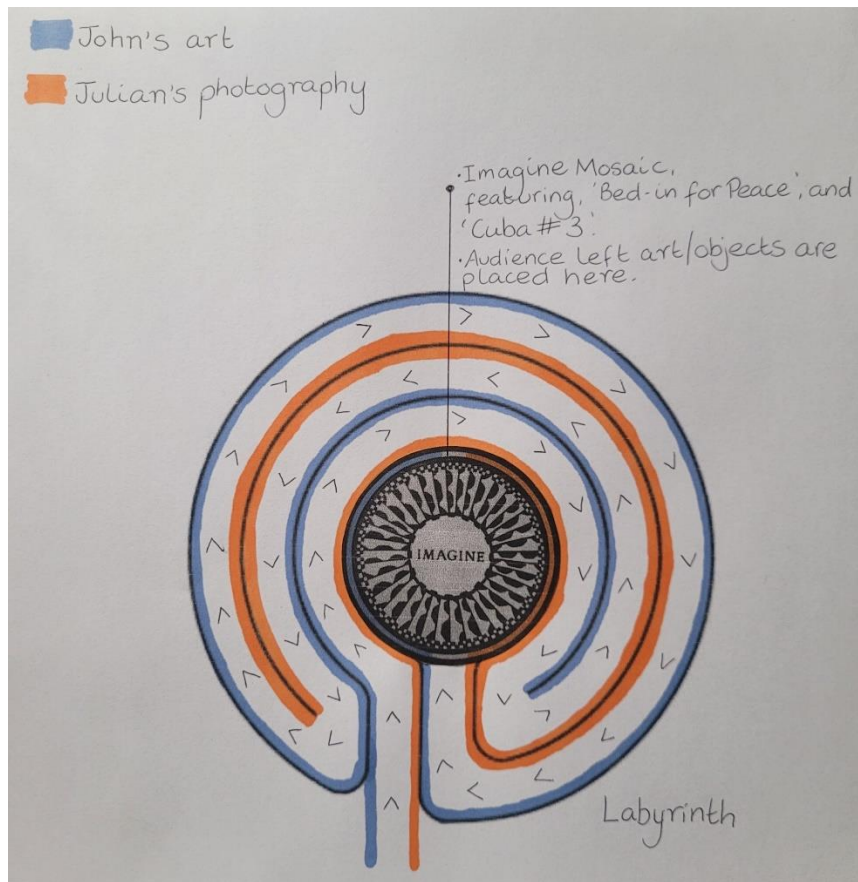


Fig.3 Labyrinth Exhibition. Zöe Baillieu. 2026



Fig.4 Central Park Map (Google Images)

The word 'imagine', invites you to think. Here the audience can leave their art, poetry or something of which, they simply want to let go. It will become part of the exhibition for that day. This is the only contribution; the exhibition is free to all.



Fig.5 Imagine Mosaic, Donated by the City of Naples, 1985

The artwork will be protected by a white modular structure. Some walls are glass with shutters, which will help protect the pieces. Natural light will be used as much as possible. Muted light, as used in some galleries, can strain the eyes. The information along the way, e.g. Bagism and facts about the W.F.F. should be pleasurable to read. Knowledgeable staff will answer any questions. The exhibition will be on one level, making it accessible. I have recently visited an exhibition which was on different levels and had dim lighting, which made reading difficult, but the staff were helpful and the art beautiful.

Opening night will see Julian and his brother, Sean, performing their own songs, as well as the songs of their father and a new recording, involving the audience, of 'Give peace a chance'. Wouldn't you want to be a part of that?

When we leave something behind, like art or poetry, we leave behind a message and inspiration. John left behind his message of peace, just as Gandhi and King before him. Today there are still hostilities; the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Palestine conflict in Gaza. The cost-of-living crisis and human trafficking. What will be left at Strawberry Fields?

The names of John & Julian Lennon are so closely associated with peace and welfare that hopefully, this peaceful show would bring attention and make the powers-that-be think again. Can you imagine?

Bibliography

Google Images. Available at: <https://images.google.com> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Google Search. Available at: <https://www.google.com> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Instagram @julespicturepalace. Available at: <https://www.instagram.com> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Julian Lennon Official Website *Julian Lennon*. Available at: <https://www.julianlennon.com> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Lennon, Cynthia (2005) *John*. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

Lennon, John (1986) *Skywriting by word of mouth*. London: Harper & Row.

Lennon, Julian (2024) *Life's fragile moments*.

National Museums Liverpool. Available at: <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Peter Harrington Gallery. Available at: <https://www.peterharringtongallery.co.uk> (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

Robertson, John (1990) *The art and music of John Lennon*. London: Omnibus Press.

BBC (2019) *Icons: The greatest person of the 21st century: Activists*. BBC Two England, 28 June, 02:30. Available at: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/prog/12D35DE5?bcast=129587179> (Accessed: 4 April 2026).

List of Figures

Fig. 1: John Lennon (1969) *Bed-in for peace*.

Fig. 2: Julian Lennon (2018) *Cuba #3*.

Fig. 3: Zöe Baillieu (2026) *Labyrinth*.

Fig. 4: Google Images (2026) *Central Park map*. Available at: <https://images.google.com> (Accessed: 2026).

Fig. 5: Google Images (2026) *Imagine mosaic*. Available at: <https://images.google.com> (Accessed: 2026).