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Ways of Perceiving, curating essay

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EXHIBITION TITLE: Beauty through the ages

Map of exhibition



Figure one: Jessica Cox, Exhibition beauty through the ages, April 2020

While curating my exhibition I would like it to be outdoors outdoors where I feel it would gain a higher audience. I would do this because after looking at “Vatnajokull”- outdoor Exhibition at the Jokulsarlon, Iceland. You can see how the exhibition is outdoor and how they are showing the impact on climate change. If I was to do this, I would find a photographer who focuses on the landscapes such as Ansel Adams because he took his images over a hundred years ago. I would use Ansel Adams because I want to show the impact that climate change has had on the environment and using Adams would allow me to do this. Having an exhibition outdoors would have a huge impact on the viewers because you would be able to use all five senses smell, hear, feel, sight and touch.

Being able to use your five senses can high a higher impact on the viewers. For example you would be able to smell your surroundings and feel how Adams did when taking his photo. Another advantage that using your five senses could be hearing the wind, or the sounds of the birds this is because it could make someone feel relaxed while viewing the image. You would also be able to feel the textures of the surroundings which would bring you closer to understanding how Adams felt when he took his image and why. The most important sense for this exhibition would be sight. This would be important as I would like viewers to see the changes that has happened over the years and how climate change has effected the landscape.

If I was to display Ansel Adams work I would make sure that images are placed where they were originally taken. I am going to do this because by having his work placed where it was taken 100 years ago you would be able to see what the area used to look like and how it looks now. By doing this it would allow you to see the impact that climate change has had on the area.

Global warming is having a huge effect on the world because it is increasing the temperature. With temperatures increasing it is causing serious harm, for example it is causing extreme weather conditions. The ice is melting affecting the animals and wildfires are lasting longer which not only affects animals but the people and the habitat. With the temperatures increasing it is also causing more evaporation to happen. "The increased evaporation and additional moisture to the atmosphere has led to 30% more intense rain during heavy downpours in that part of the U.S." ¹ With this happening it can also cause a lot more flooding. From reading all the information on the effects of climate change I decided to do an exhibition on how climate change has affected the way things look now. By doing this it would also allow me to raise awareness.



Figure 2- "Vatnajökull"- Outdoor Exhibition at The Jokulsárlon, Iceland

I have taken inspiration from "Vatnajökull"- outdoor Exhibition at the Jokulsarlon, Iceland because he has presented his work outdoors work with photographs inspired by the ever-changing patterns in glaciers. He plans to move his exhibition around Iceland. This is where his work would differ to that of mine as I feel by leaving the work in situ it has a bigger impact on the viewer.

I have used figure 2 for inspiration because I like the idea of adding images to a landscape. From looking at the photo you can see that in the background there is a picture of ice all melted and in the front there is pictures of what it used to look like you can see clearly how the place has changed from what it used to look like to what it looks like now. I feel that the photographer did this image to show the effects that climate change is having on the area to try and raise awareness of it.

In my exhibition I plan on putting the photographs on an easel I would also have to make sure that the easel is solid and build for all types of weather because the weather is not certain which would mean that I would have to prepare for all weather conditions. Another thing I would need to make sure is that the photograph is properly protected. I would need to do this because if it happened to rain and the photograph was not protected then it could lead to it being damaged. To prevent damage to the photograph I will make sure that the easel is weighed down to prevent it from toppling and that the photo has a cover around it to ensure that it doesn't get damaged during different weather conditions. I will mount the image and then place it on an easel with the dimensions at 13 x 16-1/2 in. I will do this because it would allow the image to be big enough to be viewed but not to big to stop you seeing the landscape at the same time. The idea behind this is that not only am I commenting on Climate change, but I am also ensuring that the photographs

are viewed as a piece of art in their own right not just used as propaganda.



Figure 3, Ansel Adams, The Tetons and the Snake River (1942)

The photographer Ansel Adams is a well-known black and white photographer and considered one of the masters. I will be concentrating on his landscape work and researching the history of the image to discover where it was taken and what that landscape may look like now. There is a clear comparison within the two images (Figure 3 and 4). This is where I would place the Ansel Adams photographs. Although the perspective is slightly different in the second image, there are clear differences in the landscape. Over time, the river has had a slight change in shape, and the surrounding areas have become greener. You could say that climate change has had a positive impact on this area.



Figure 4_Karen Hastings Snake River, 2020



Figure 5- Jeffrey Pine, Sentinel Dome, Yosemite National Park, 1940

As well as Ansel Adams I have chosen to look at this image (figure 5) and use the location that the image was taken for my exhibition. I have decided to do this because the image was taken in 1940 which was 80 years ago. Due to the photo taken 80 years ago you can see a clear difference within the landscape.

The original photo was taken 80 years ago by Ansel Adams at that time climate change wasn't as big of an issue as it is now. In the photo you can see how the tree looks strong and healthy and still had leaves on.



Figure 6. Scenic Wonders, Yosemite Landmarks, Sentinel Dome, Yosemite National Park, 1994

This is the same location as the image above but taken 80 years after the original photo. From looking at this photo you can see the clear changes on the location. One change that I see this the tree is not as strong anymore. The tree looks weak as if it is about to break and no longer has any leave on it, whereas in the original image it was a strong tree and looked alive.



Figure 7- Climate change, Jonna Lähteenmäki (Finland), 2nd January 2019

This is one of the recent works of Jonna Lähteenmäki who also looked at climate change. In the image above I can see how the photographer has tried to show the effects that climate change has had. From looking at the image I can see that Lähteenmäki has taken photos of how the ice has melted down into almost nothing. "Earth's great ice sheets, Greenland and Antarctica, are now losing mass six times faster than they were in the 1990s thanks to warming conditions"² from reading the article it is clear that global warming will have an effect on the sea level rise as well as the landscape, this is due to the heat causing an increase of ice to melt quicker than what it used to which is therefore rising the sea levels.

Overall, I feel that by doing an exhibition where an image was originally taken would be effective because over time the location would change especially now with climate change increasing. I believe that it would be effective because I would like to raise awareness on the increase of climate change. The image of Ansel Adams that I will be using to curate my exhibition is a clear example of climate change because you can see how the landscape has started dying with the increase of heat. The effects that climate change has on the world is "rising maximum temperatures, rising sea levels, higher ocean levels, an increase in heavy precipitation (heavy rain and hail)"³ The consequences that global warming is having on people "an increase on hunger and water crisis especially in developing countries, health risk through rising temperatures and heatwaves, economic implication with dealing with secondary damage related to climate change"⁴. These are huge problems that people need to be aware of and need to make changes before it is too late to change. My hope is that by curating this outdoor exhibition that gives the viewer a before and present shot in time of the landscape, the detrimental effects of global warming will be apparent and humans will start taking responsibility to slow down these effects.

Bibliography

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3. <https://www.myclimate.org/information/faq/faq-detail/detail/News/what-are-the-effects-of-climate-change/> accessed May 2020
4. ibid

Illustrations

Figure one- Jessica Cox, Exhibition beauty through the ages, April 2020

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