

Visual Enquiry 1 (ADAA5008/C)

A Report on Site-Specificity

Question: *“How does a site dictate what work is made?”*

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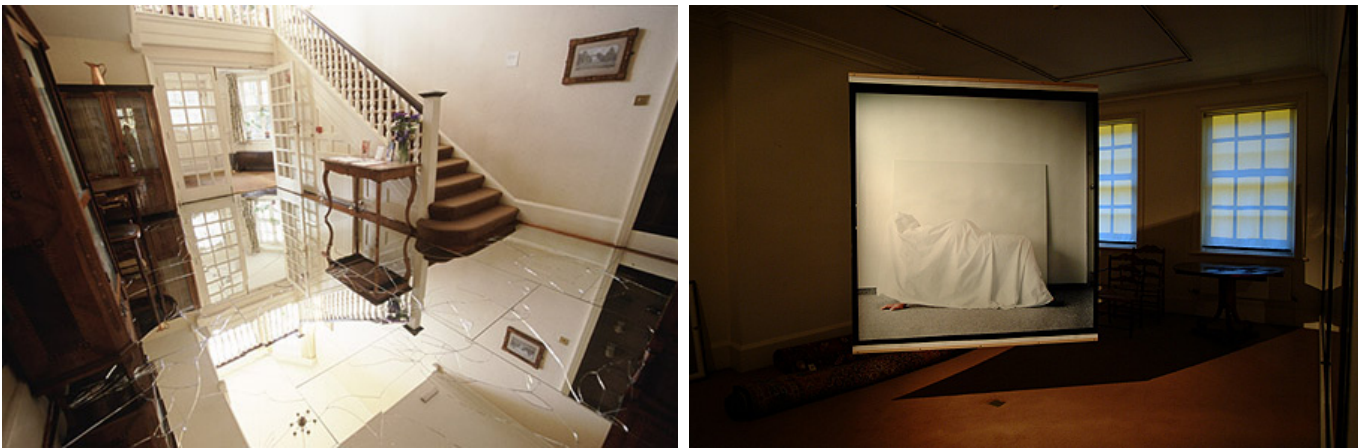
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Introduction

Within this report I will compare and discuss site-specific art works and installations from Uli Aigner, Tony Oursler and Holly Davey, in relation to the question “How does a site dictate what work is made?”. By analysing how each artist engages with their chosen environments, the report will consider the relationship between location and artistic creation, focusing on how physical, historical, and social contexts shape the nature and form of the artworks created.

-Add definition of “Site Specific ??

Artwork 1 - Uli Aigner “*A Visit to Freud's*” (2002) Freud Museum London.



Uli Aigner's "A Visit to Freud's" is a reflection on the historical significance of Sigmund Freud's legacy as a neurologist and psychoanalyst. Within this installation, Aigner created 4 pieces of work specifically for the home of Sigmund and Anna Freud. Her piece titled "Enemy Contact" consists of cracked, broken mirrors laid in the hallway of the museum. This material instantly involves the audience, forcing visitors to hear the crunching of glass underfoot, all while being faced with a warped distortion of themselves and the surrounding space. Aigner's placing of mirrors on the floor may serve as a symbolic reference to Freud's exploration of the unconscious mind, delving into the fragmented and layered aspects of the human psyche.

Another of Aigner's featured pieces "Freud's Couch, Pregnant" was used as part of the installation. Under the title "Identification With the Most Important" this self-portrait was displayed on a hanging wooden frame, located in Freud's former

bedroom. The significance of Aigner choosing to place this piece within the bedroom undeniably relates to Freud's controversial and groundbreaking theories of sexuality and psychosexual development. The strangely suffocating, concealment of the female body is almost surreal in nature, her silhouette implying pregnancy makes it seem all the more haunting and perverse. This continues to deepen the connection with Freud's theory's, emphasising the role of "the unconscious" in sexual behaviour and desires. Freud believed that many sexual thoughts and impulses are repressed because they are socially unacceptable, but they continue to influence behaviour, sometimes emerging in dreams, or neuroses.

- due to health and safety concerns, the mirrors were removed and re-installed at the Austrian Cultural Forum.....

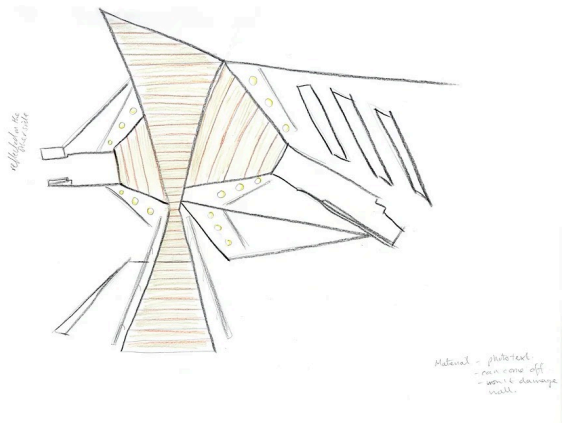
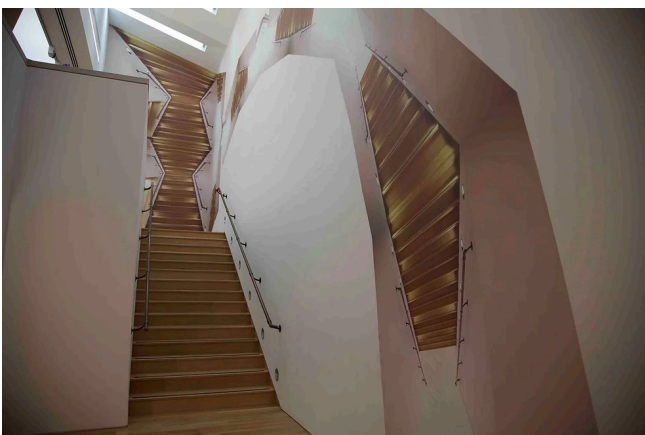
Artwork 2 - Tony Oursler *"The Influence Machine"* (2000), Madison Square Park , New York.



Tony Oursler's "The Influence Machine" was a stunning experimental piece comprised of photography, video work, sound and sculptural elements used to explore the impact of technology on day-to-day human life.

- This piece has been shown/ installed at various different places including Scotland and Manchester
- In each location the material being projected on changes - smoke machines and trees are consistent factors
- The video changes at each location also
- Incredibly theatrical, with the sound and ghostly images the piece conjures feelings of a seance, enveloping the visitor into another world

Artwork 3- Holly Davey *"Nothing Is What It Is Because Everything Is What It Isn't"*
(2013) National Museum Wales, Cardiff



Comparison -

Conclusion -

References-

Uli Aigner - A visit to Freud's - Freud Museum London. Freud Museum London.
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