

Ways Of Perceiving

:Curating an Imagined Exhibition

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Curating an Imagined Exhibition:

Do Not Touch the Art, Let the Art Touch You

Art is something that is supposed to be felt and embraced rather than purely viewed. It is something that adds sentiment and value to a person, allowing them to embrace their emotions and relate with the art to better evaluate who they are, but how can art produce emotions within a person? Emotions are the centre of human interaction and understanding, all decisions ever made have been based on these psychological states. But how do we as people form emotions? And more importantly, what triggers these states the most? "The specific emotion that emerges depends on the setting and always on the person's history and biology." (Kagan, 1997, p.1) This demonstrates that being in a certain location can influence someone's mind state. Places like galleries which hold art pieces can evoke emotion from within someone as it can relate to our origin and own personal life.

The power to evoke change in the mind of someone is a very fascinating thing. Art has the ability to produce tears, bring smiles to faces, ask questions, and create frustration which anyone is susceptible to. This is primarily because "Emotions are typically triggered by some kind of evaluation that an important goal or want or interest is at stake" (Robinson, 2005, p.58) which provides a reason as to why we resonate with certain pieces of art that depict scenarios or feelings that share value with our lives. This further suggests that all art is created with emotion in mind as without it there would be no meaning to the art, and it wouldn't hold any value to either the artist or the audience.

With this all-in mind, when creating an exhibition, it is important to understand what art must be included to push the overall meaning of the idea. which is to demonstrate how Art is made with emotional purpose and how it is projected using certain techniques. Gaining better knowledge on curating an exhibition will help “understand the way the artwork works, which in its broader sense implicates also the specific way of thinking it is able to create.” (Noordegraaf et al., 2013, p.128). As this exhibition is to prove how art holds emotional powers, I must consider what techniques artists use to make this a reality and how these specific features connect with the audience.

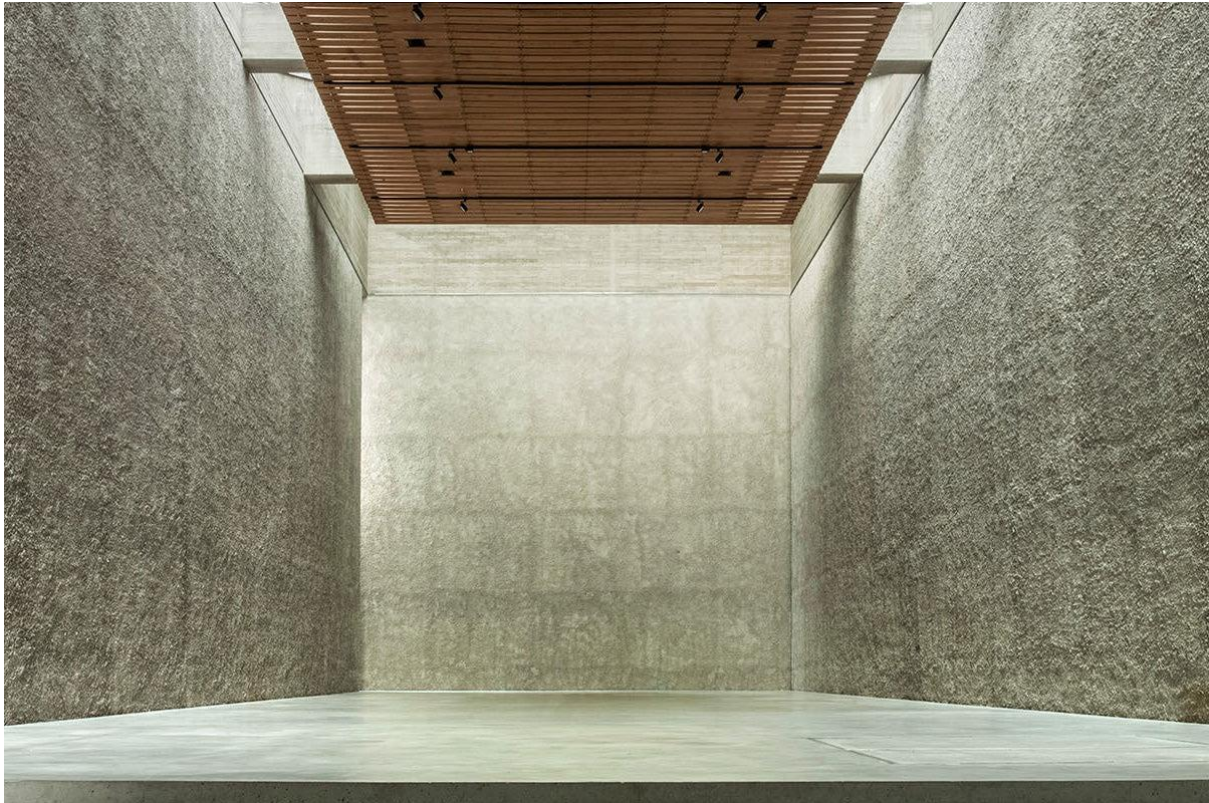


Fig 1. Koenig Galerie, Berlin, 2017, Source:

https://www.koeniggalerie.com/cdn/shop/files/2017_NAVE_photo_Roman_Marz_10_bearb_220215_2_ce547523-d681-444e-bbc6-4bd237cabfe8.jpg?v=1686578795

The exhibition Will be held in the Koenig Galerie in Berlin which was founded by Johann König in 2002. This is an establishment that holds a focus on engaging younger audiences with art and driven to embrace new concepts. This venue is a blank canvas which would be perfect for the exhibition as it allows the Art to serve the purpose of engaging with the audience, with no distractions. The huge room allows space for thought and according to (George, 2015, p.79) “The amount of space in front of a work, or around it, is very important.” This supports the facts that It is necessary to put thought into how an audience will engage with both the venue and art, as they will both have a factor on the overall atmosphere of the exhibition.

Vincent Van Gogh, *At Eternity's Gate*, 1890

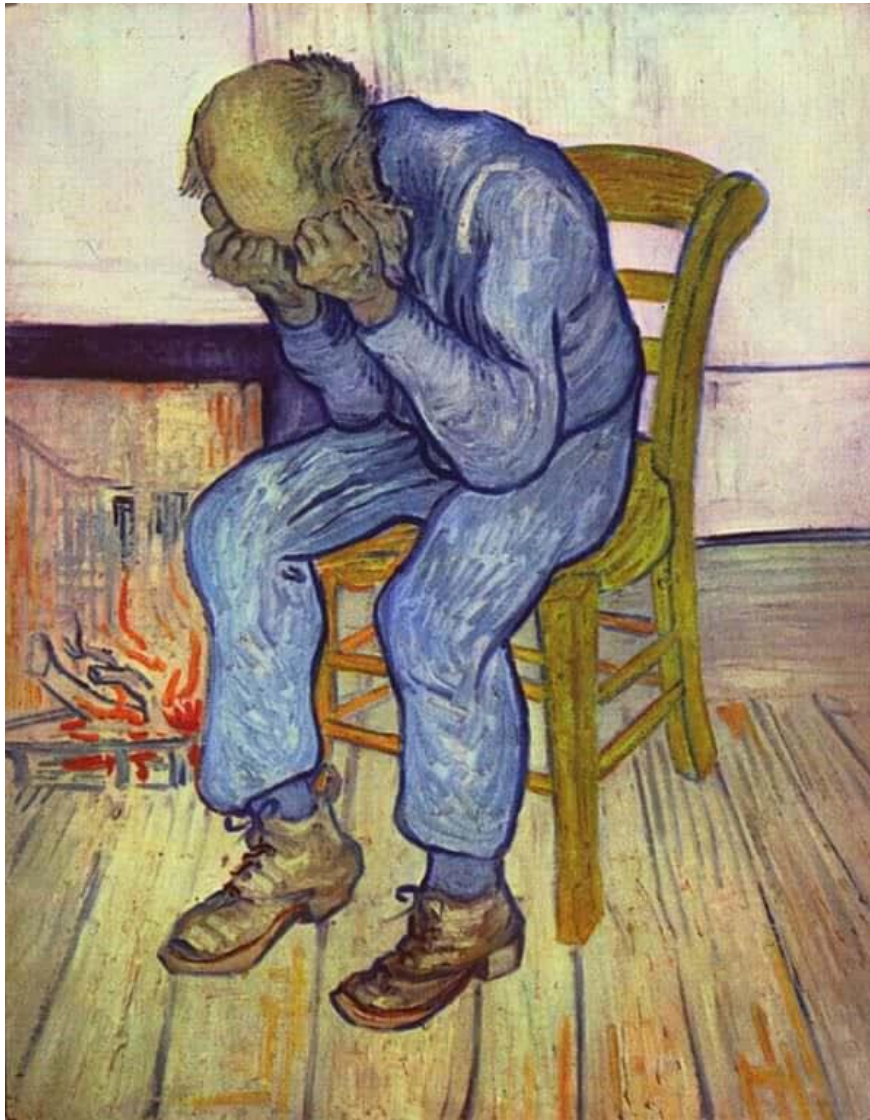


Fig 2. Vincent Van Gogh, *At Eternity's Gate*, 1890, Source:

<https://www.vincentvangogh.org/assets/img/paintings/at-eternitys-gate.jpg>

At Eternity's Gate is a painting by Vincent Van Gogh which depicts an elderly man in deep despair. The painting is supposedly meant to resemble Van Gogh in his final years as he struggles with his own emotions and life experiences. The painting was produced during a time of Van Gogh's life where he was assumed to be struggling

with his health, which is clearly presented in the art piece. The use of continuous and individual brush strokes can be seen to represent the individual struggles the artist faced during his life. The melancholy colour palette is an insight to the coldness and lack of motivation Van Gogh was feeling during the period of time. However, the standout feature in this painting that expresses such emotion is the body language. The audience aren't able to see the face in the painting, yet the hands firmly imprinted into the head suggest complete distraught and loss of control. According to (Kuhnke, 2016, p.13) "Not even your thoughts and intentions are immune to reflecting themselves in your movements and facial expressions." Which supports the fact the painting can push emotion onto the audience purely from what the body language implies. This piece connects with people as the pose is incredibly human. Even without context, *At Eternity's Gate* is a great example of how art can resonate with the emotions of humans purely from the use of body language in the painting.

Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, 1893

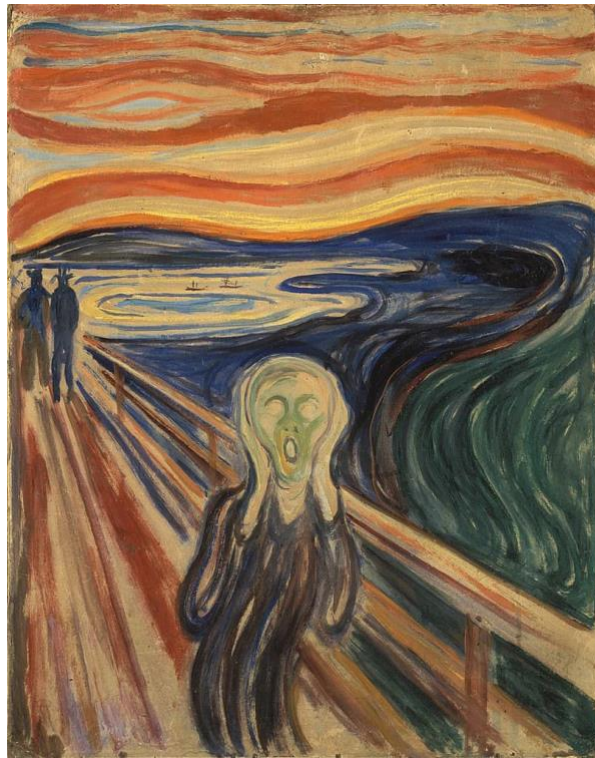


Fig 3. Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, 1893, Source:

<https://www.edvardmunch.org/assets/img/paintings/the-scream.jpg>

The timeless piece of art which is *The Scream* is profoundly known for its emotionally tense presence. The painting was created during a time of change across the world, which is captured on the face of the painting, resonating with everyone who views it. The most notable feature on *The Scream* painting is the face which clearly shows a state of anguish and terror, which is presented so heavily that it can emotionally connect to the audience. Although the painting has little realism, the art piece holds such emotional value due to the origin of it. The painting being made during a time of rapid industrialisation across the world captures the anxieties that spread across the people of the world. This is part of the reason it is still holding emotional value today, the feeling of uncertainty relates to the audience as the modern world continue to change.

Michelangelo, *Pieta*, 1498-1499



Fig 4. Michelangelo, *Pieta*, 1498-1499, Source:

<http://www.italianrenaissance.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Michelangelo-pieta-590x615.jpg>

The *Pieta* is a statue created by Michelangelo in 1499 which is a piece of art that holds a deep connection with the audience who view the piece. The statue piece is extremely emotionally provoking for many reasons, one being how human it is. The sculpting of the art which depicts a *Virgin Mary* holding a deceased *Jesus Christ* instills the statue with a sense of real and pure love. The realism of the statue further

emphasises how this art can communicate with the audience as the heavily detailed garments and rigid body create a raw and real scene that encapsulates pure emotion. Moreover, the religious symbolism that is held within the sculpture that contains themes of sacrifice meets the audience with a reflection of human compassion. The themes of love and loss push past boundaries of the image and relate to the audience, further showing how art pieces can have emotional effects on people. Sculptures are as according to Rawson (1997, p.155) “a sophisticated human language of communication that operates across boundaries of time and culture” which further demonstrates that art is an emotive language which we as humans use to express ourselves and communicate ideas and feeling.

Pablo Picasso, Guernica, 1937



Fig 5. Pablo Picasso, Guernica, 1937, Source:

<https://www.pablopicasso.org/assets/img/paintings/guernica3.jpg>

One of the most famous paintings of all time and one of the most powerful paintings too, the *Guernica*. This painting depicts a scene of war which is known to be about the Spanish Civil War. The painting shares such emotion as it is Picasso's portrayal of the horrors of war and human suffering, which can be seen as a statement to the world that war will engulf the planet and cause chaos. The monochromatic painting creates a dark and intense scene which makes the purpose of the painting more impactful. This in return confronts the audience with the harsh reality of war which demonstrates how emotion and can be transposed from the painting into our minds. The *Guernica* shows it is more than a work of art, and rather a powerful message for social change in the world, emphasising the emotional connection the art piece has with people.

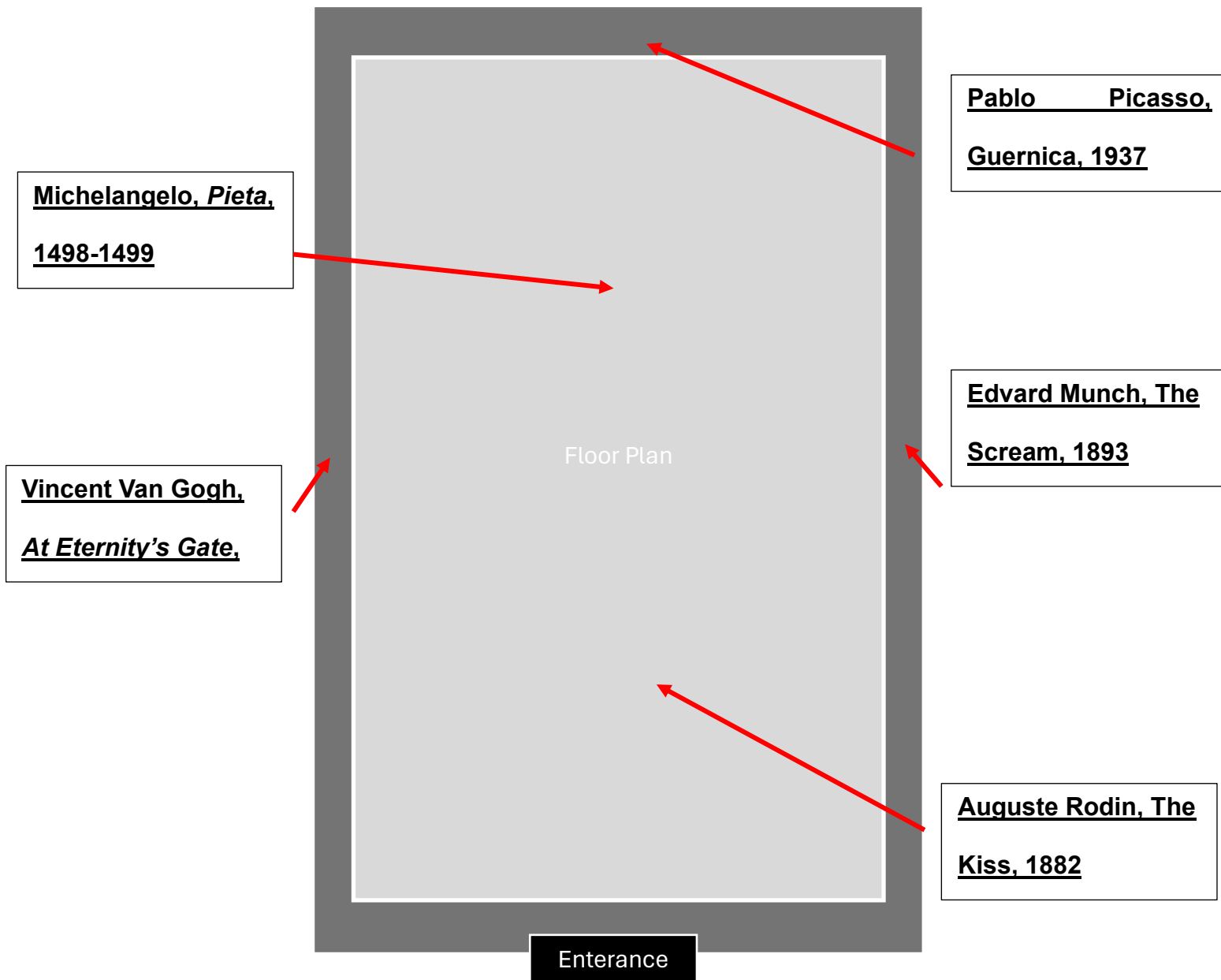
Auguste Rodin, The Kiss, 1882



Fig 6. Auguste Rodin, The Kiss, 1882, Source: https://www.musee-rodin.fr/sites/default/files/2020-12/s.1002_web_numjm002.jpg

This iconic sculpture captivates crowds of people because of the pure emotional resonance. It depicts a couple who are completely and eternally locked in an embrace, this embodies a deep theme of love and passion which resonates with anyone who interacts with the statue. The intertwined bodies create a sense of raw emotion, which is something anyone will feel when viewing the piece. The statue's white figure also gives a canvas for people to express their own experiences and emotions onto the statue, which makes it more personal and relatable to the audience. Whether it's ongoing love or a yearn for a new passion, *The Kiss* creates a canvas for people to reflect on and become more emotionally aware of themselves. This piece of art is a great example as to how art has the capability to project emotions onto people.

Do Not Touch the Art, Let the Art Touch You: Exhibition Plan



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