

Collaborative Photographic Practice (M5X01635)

Exhibition Seed Report

Our groups exhibition is going to be held at the Botanical Gardens located in Singleton, Swansea which is free to enter. We have gained permission from Ceri Davies to hold our exhibition in the three connected greenhouses which provides a large space to position all of our work. Each greenhouse holds a different climate from Cacti room to a tropical room which gave us the idea of creating work that would match what specific plants are in that room. As the gardens is open between the hours of 10-4:30 it will attract a wide audience from the older generation, dog walkers as well as university students as the path to the gardens is situated next to Swansea University. As the surrounding area is tranquil and relaxing it entices the community to gain inspiration for their gardens or simply admire the views. As a collective we have decided to base our exhibition around an increasingly important issue which is climate change and raising awareness of how botanical gardens have become a significant way of preserving wildlife in this crisis. We will each individually create bodies of work that link to this theme, nevertheless we will work collectively to ensure that our exhibition pieces and ideas will work well to guarantee a beneficial exhibition that is informative. In addition, we will observe our work that is created and decided if any of it has an underlying theme that could be collaborated. An idea I would like to pursue is experimenting with projection onto the glass of the gardens and onto the plants themselves which would imply how our actions project onto the way our planet functions and can significantly result in problems. In a similar way I would like to experiment with installations which would have a comparable meaning to the projection idea. For example, laws and changes in our daily lives that we can install may result in a positive outcome. I am extremely keen to begin experimentation and group meetings on this theme as I have been extremely passionate about climate change and raising awareness on the issue and I am aware that other members of the group are too which will add more creative ideas of awareness and broaden my knowledge on this topic too.

First visit to the gardens

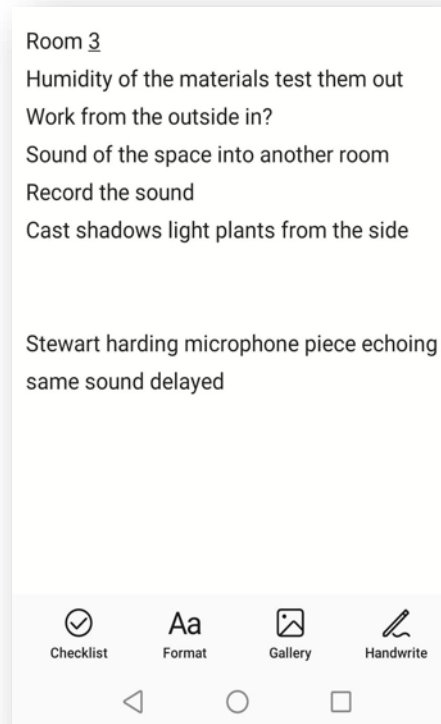
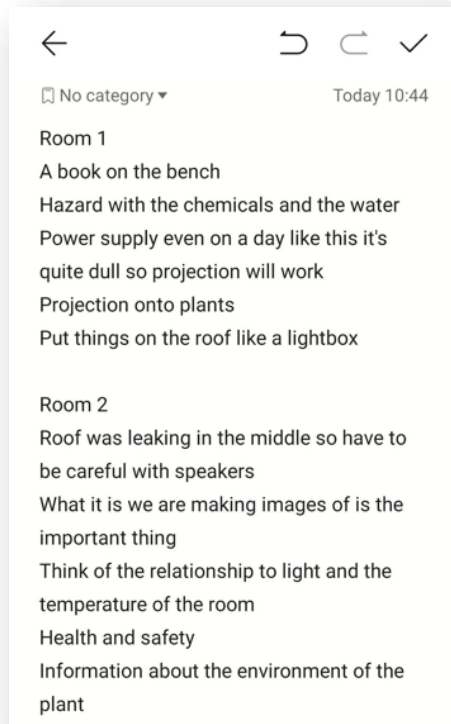
At the first visit we discussed what ideas we had and altered them slightly to fit the space. I have decided to expand on a project I have created before which was about raising awareness and knowledge on climate change and how it is affecting the community around us. However, this time I wanted to experiment using the darkroom instead of cyanotypes to discover how this affects the feel of the images. Also, when creating the darkroom print, I will use paper that is old and would just be put in the bin instead of opening a fresh box. At the first visit I also began to hint on my social media that there my group and I are planning an exhibition in the space. When visiting the gardens, we noticed a sign stating that the Friends of the City of Swansea Botanical Complex (FCSBC) are aiming to raise money through the plant shop in the botanical

gardens for a new gate. This gave me the idea to sell tote bags I made in a previous project to donate that money to the FCSBC. Furthermore, our group came to the decision to make zines that we could ask for a small donation if people would want to take them home. Finally, our group discussed some potential titles for our exhibition and our next steps are to look at floor plans in order to plan which work will work best in which area.



Site Specific Meeting

Today was the first site specific meeting with the lecturers in which we had to explain our ideas and to get some feedback, as can be seen below I made some notes for the members of our group that were absent from the meeting as well as having evidence that we could reflect on.



Artist Research 1 – Louis Masai

Louis Masai is a London- based painter, sculptor and illustrator who aspiration is to highlight the importance of knowing the impact of climates change and species equality. This is presented through his paintings that are displayed on buildings using extravagant colours which gains the attraction of an audience. Another concept Masai explores is the endangered species that are ignored and place them in the limelight to signify that they are not less significant. This is a theme I want to portray in my experimentations as there are many species in the UK, our community that are endangered but may not have even been heard off. I believe this will fit perfectly with the location of the exhibition as it is a community that is worried about the condition of planet and the effects it is having on the location of certain plants.





Artist Research 2 – Tim Flach

Tim Flach is a British photographer who specialises in photography of animals and explores the way in which humans shape animals and shape their meaning. When looking at Flach's work I feel an emotional connection to the animals and this a theme I would like to explore in my work. In addition, Flach has inspired me to create some darkroom prints that only focus on the species as I believe the simplicity of the Flach's images impact the emotion of the viewer.



Experimentation 1

I began my experimentation by collecting plastics that were found on organic items that wouldn't need this packaging and could be sold individually such as plums and oranges. In addition, I reused acetates of the endangered species in order to reduce the amount of materials used. I produced these experimentations by placing the netting over the prints and exposing them which I feel considers how these plastic in our environment would and have affected these species and exposing the risk we are producing. Sizing is another conception I tested as I had the idea that I wanted my prints to be smaller than A4 to give the impression of delicacy as the condition we have created for these species has lead them to near extinction and will lead to the inevitable death unless action is taken. I believe that this idea was exhibited in the A6

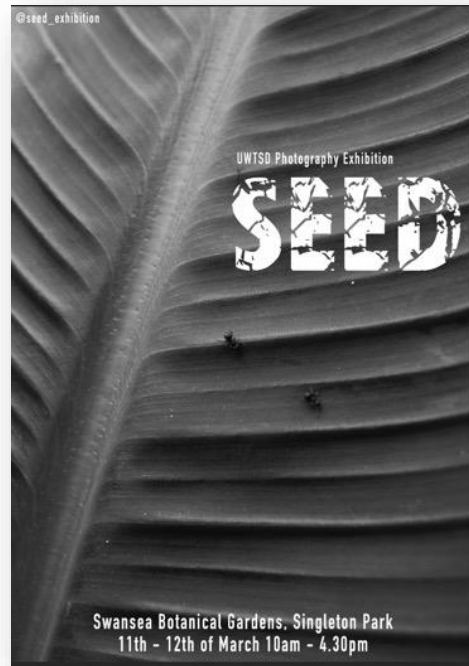
prints instead of the A5 prints. In addition, I tested exposing the plastic labels that come attached to the waste, which in my opinion they replicate an x ray version of the bug. The message behind these particular tests were to raise awareness how litter does not only trap the bugs which leads them to starvation, the animals and bugs can ingest the plastics inevitably leading to death.



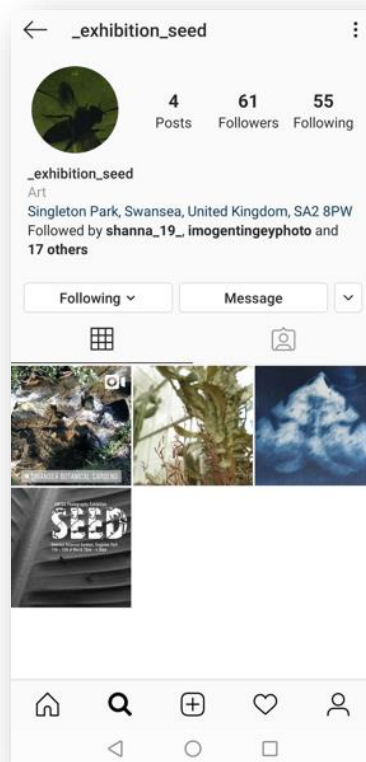
Raising Awareness

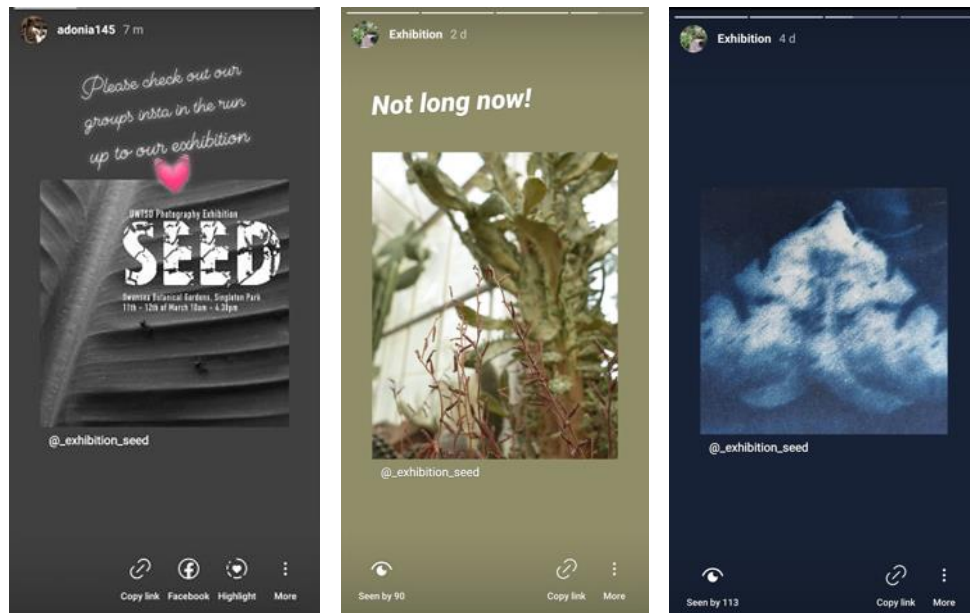
We all created ideas on what we could name our exhibition for example, 'desolate seed' was an idea Imogen created. However, as a group we felt that just the word 'seed' would work better as 1 word is more of a statement and preserves some mystery behind the theme of the exhibition. Imogen then created our poster.

Adonia Williams



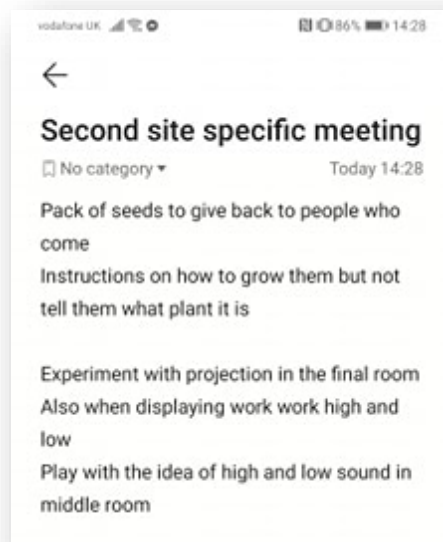
Imogen then set up an Instagram account in order to spread awareness of our exhibition and to gain attention in the community. I sent over images that would interest the viewers without revealing too much about the exhibition. Additionally, any posts that were made I added them to my Instagram story with a link to each individual post to bring more attraction.





Site Specific Meeting 2

These are the notes I made from the second site specific meeting in which we were joined by the Norwegian lecturers as well as Hamish. It was suggested by the lecturers to implement the inclusion of envelopes containing seeds. As a group we then discussed the idea of placing them in the center of the zines.



Zine Design

After observing all the work created by every member of the group, we came to the conclusion that Imogen's work and my prints worked well together and we decided to collaborate and make the zine based on our work.

Adonia Williams



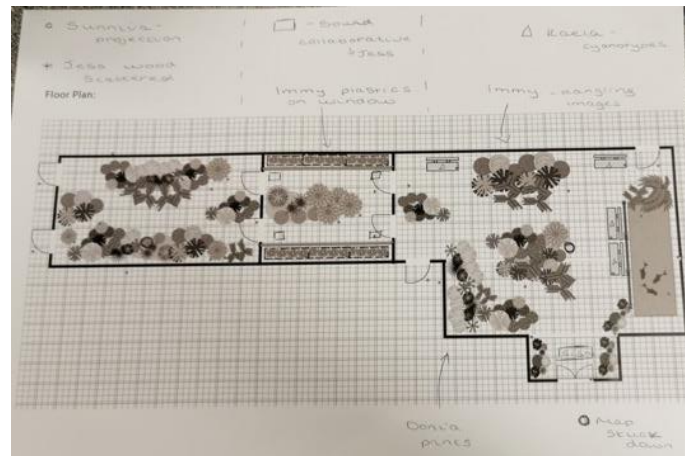
After this I printed 30 copies and began cutting them to size, then between Jess, Imogen and I we folded stabled and prepared the see envelopes. I was in charge of placing the envelopes containing the seeds in the zine and tying them with a bow on the front. Reflecting on the final visual zines that were made, I had the idea of displaying them in a woven basket as I felt it would match the aesthetic and after consulting with the group, they were fond of the idea too.



Floor Plan

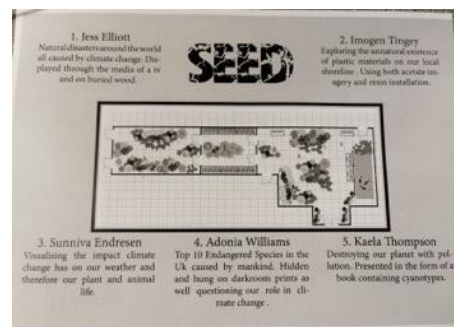
After seeing samples of everyone's work and comprehending how much has been developed, I was responsible for writing on a floor plan where peoples work will be

positioned to gain a visual understanding of how the exhibition would flow. This also aided the development of the map.



Map Layout

Imogen and I designed the layout for the map that will be placed at the exhibition as some of our work is more hidden and allows the observer to distinguish whose work belongs to each member of our group. However, I understand that the map could have been amended by enlarging the map and extending the information of each individual's explanation.



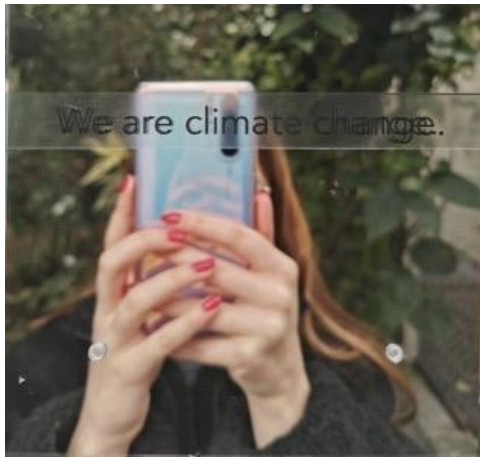
Experimentation 2

For my second set of trails I trialled arranging leaves on the prints as well as having the acetates on their own size A6. The prints of the individual species reminded me of a person who collects butterflies and displays them in a book which could be an idea I investigate next. I am particularly fond of the over exposed prints as they insinuate the number of each of the species left and the less there are the more they fade out of our vision.



Exhibition preparation

We all worked as a group to position the work created to ensure each task that had been given to each person had been completed to a high standard that would warrant an exhibition that is well established. This could be felt by the set- up of the exhibition as it all flowed affectively. A fault that occurred during the process of setting up the exhibition was that we were unable to get electric in the final room (tropical room) however it was quickly resolved by the gardeners at the botanicals who arranged an electrician to solve it. A concept I deliberated when helping Imogen visualise a way of exhibiting her blocks of plastic was to use a mirror. This furthered an idea of creating a body of work that would link to Imogen's and that was to have a mirror at the beginning and the end of the exhibition as the cubes were placed in the middle of the exhibition. The mirrors would encourage the audience to question their own morals and the actions they will take after viewing our exhibitions and allowing them to come to the understanding that this global emergency will not just go away, we need to act. However, due to the humidity in the tropical room there were issues with securing the mirror to the damp door. I resolved the issue by fixing the second mirror to the other side of the door where the first mirror was placed. I felt this worked equally as well as the other position however I would have liked to be aware of this issue that occurred earlier as I felt it didn't appear as professional.



Exhibition Evaluation

Overall, the group and I were extremely pleased with the outcome of our exhibition and the reviews we received back from members of the Botanical gardens. Although when monitoring the exhibition, I noticed a stereotypical concept that was mainly occurring with the older generation and that was they expected the 'photography' exhibition to be mainly images placed on the walls rather than using other techniques. This surprised me as many of the techniques used in the exhibition have been around for centuries, for example cyanotypes used to be used to create blueprints of buildings. Reflecting on my work, if I were to re-create this exhibition I would experiment more with the positioning and display of my work. For example, I could present each species in a set exploring how their environment has been altered due to man-made creations. It would begin with the species on their own, surrounded by leaves, surrounded by plastic and how they live now surrounded by both and then a blank print to indicate how this is how they will end up. Furthermore, I believe I could have improved the meaning behind my prints by exploring more artists work which may have led me to a different outcome of exhibiting the prints. I personally believe that some members of the group could have been more active in group decisions and the process of making however I do not feel that this affected the atmosphere of the exhibition.