

Module: ADAD4019/C
Ways of Perceiving

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Imagined Exhibition

Sports movement throughout histories

The world of sports has been a fascinating subject for artists throughout history. From ancient Greece to modern times, athletes and athletic movements have been captured in various art forms. This imaginary gallery showcases the works of five artists who have explored sports through different ways of perceiving; Eadweard Muybridge, Pelle Cass, Neil Leifer, Discobolus, and Vincent Van Gogh have all produced distinctive works that capture the essence of sports in their own unique ways. From Muybridge's ground-breaking photographic studies of motion to Van Gogh's dynamic paintings of wrestlers, each artist offers a distinct perspective on the subject. Together, their artworks create a cohesive and thought-provoking exhibit that invites the viewer to reconsider how the perception and experience of sports. This essay will deconstruct five art pieces that have had an impact in art and photography and many other creative mediums from over the numerous centuries. Art is an expression or creativity that can be found in various forms including painting, sculpture and photography. Photography has undergone many transformations since it began with new technologies and techniques which allowed people to capture images in many unique and creative ways.

Eadweard Muybridge is widely regarded as the man that captured time thanks to his ground-breaking work in stop-motion photography. Muybridge's work was important and changing as it was revolutionary work in developing cinema and animation. This is because he captured a series of images to form a sequence, he formed the images in quick succession to create the illusion of motion. His most famous project 'The Horse in motion' involved him capturing a horse galloping and it showcased his incredible attention to detail and his ability to capture motion in a way that had never been seen before.

Pelle Cass is another photographer that made a name for himself through his unique style. Cass is known for creating images that depict large crowds (McQuaid, 2021), but he does so by layering multiple images taken in the same spot then blends all the images together to create a single composite image. This allows Cass to capture the energy and chaos of a crowded scene while also highlighting individual moments and interactions that might otherwise have been missed. His work serves as a reminder of the power of photography to capture complex and dynamic scenes.

Neil Leifer is another photographer who through the years has captured some of the most iconic moments in sporting history (Liefer, 2008). His most famous photograph is probably the shot he took of Muhammad Ali standing over George Foreman after knocking him out in the Rumble in the jungle fight. Leifer's ability to capture the drama and intensity of sport events has made him one of the most respected photographers in the field (Forss, 2016).

Vincent Van Gogh is primarily known as a painter in particular he was interested in the relation to half-naked wrestlers and he created a portrait of the wrestlers that are now considered some of the most unique and interesting works of art (Alberge, 2022). Van Gogh's painting showcases his ability to capture the emotions and personalities of his subjects even in a medium that was still in its early stages of development.

Finally, Myron's Discobolus is a classical and well-known sculpture that has inspired countless artists throughout history. The statue depicts an athlete throwing a discus and it captures the grace and power of the human form of motion (O'Mahony, 2013). Myron's work serves as a reminder of the beauty and elegance of the human body and its influence on artists in many different mediums including photography.

In conclusion, the body has been represented through photography and fine art through a rich and diverse number of techniques which have been shaped by countless artists throughout history over the centuries. Eadweard Muybridge, Pelle Cass, Neil Leifer, Vincent Van Gogh, and Myron are just a few of the many artists that have inspired and made a significant contribution to the field. Each of these artists have their own unique style and approach. But they have all shared the same passion for capturing the beauty and complexity of the world around them. By studying their work, we can gain a greater appreciation for photography and art because of the incredible power of visual storytelling these pieces show, and they will continue to inspire people for many years to come.

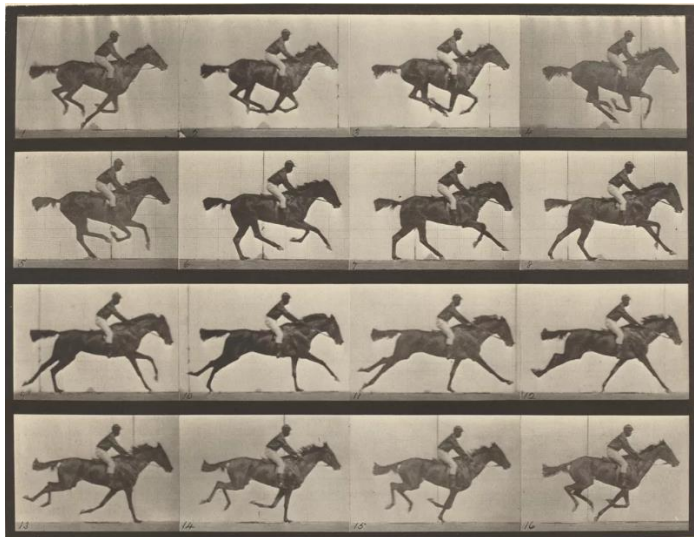


Fig. 1 Muybridge Animal Locomotion

These set of photographs (Fig. 1) were a huge part of history as Muybridge proved that as a horse is galloping, at one point in time all four hooves leave the floor, he manages to capture this by taking a series of photographs. This was the first-time photography had been used for science as support by Baker (2007), but this also revolutionised how people painted and drew horses. This will be entered into my gallery as it was ground-breaking within history and the first-time photography was used in this way. Muybridge set up a series of cameras to capture each incremental movement of a horse galloping and went on to inspire many people for generations. The size of the image is 23.7 x 30.6 cm.



Fig. 2 Crowded Fields

Pelle Cass creates a still time lapse (Fig. 2) as he sets his camera up and takes thousands of photos then compresses them so that many moments appear as one. The reason for this being in the gallery as it accompanies the work of Eadweard Muybridge, as it again involves movement of sport in an unusual way. However, also captures time as each image freezes the athletes at different points on their dive which brings a well-constructed composition. Images size Inkjet print on heavy matte rag paper 19 x 13-inch, 36 x 24-inch, 60 x 40-inch (Cass, P. 2021).



Fig. 3 Rumble in the Jungle Muhammad Ali v George Foreman

Neil Leifer's image of Muhammad Ali standing over George Foreman has an impact of capturing the atmosphere and complexity of the moment (Fig 3.). Looking at the image you are instantly drawn to the centre of the photograph where Forman is still laying on the floor with Ali looking over. The camera is perfectly positioned in the centre that not only captures the fighters but the crowd and their reactions. Size 16x20 and 20x30



Fig. 4 Discobolus

This will be the centrepiece of my exhibition as its one of the most well-known sculptures ever, dating all the way back to 450 - 460 BC (Fig. 4). This sculpture is from Greece, and although the original bronze copy is lost, it was recreated by copies of the same statue in marble (Anguissola, 2005). It will be placed in the centre of the room so it's the first thing that people will see walking into the gallery. It captures the essence and beauty of the human body, showing the capturing in time the movement and muscle structure of the power it takes to throw the discus. Height 170cm Width 105cm Depth 63cm



Fig. 5 Wrestlers

It was only recently that the painting of Wrestlers (Fig. 5) by Vincent Van Gogh was found hidden under a still life painting called the Meadow Flowers and Roses, it is believed to have been created 135 years ago. The painting was confirmed to be Van Gogh's after it was discovered he had written a letter in 1866 telling his brother "this week I painted a large thing with two naked torsos – two wrestlers I really like doing that" (ITV News, 2022). Over the years the painting has been x-rayed but with new technological advancement scientists were able to use AI to create what the painting would have originally looked like before it was painted over. The measurement for the painting is believed to be 80 x 100cm

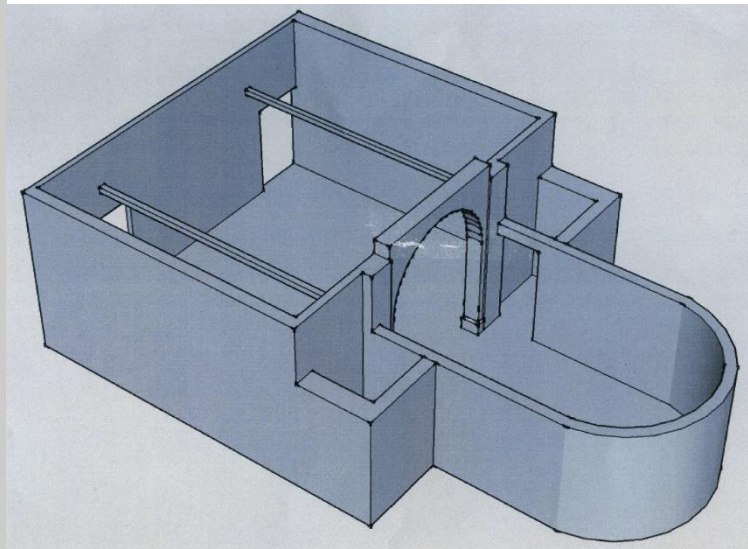
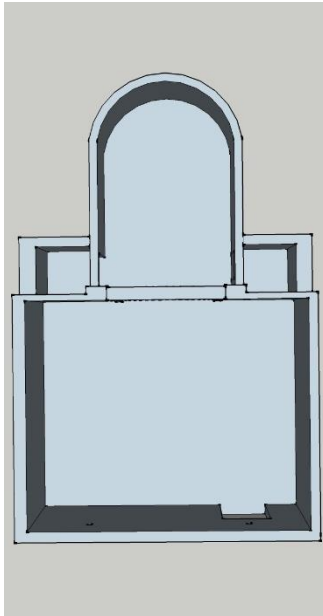


Fig. 6 Gallery Floor Plan A Fig. 7 Gallery Floor Plan B

The exhibition would work well in the Mission Gallery (Fig. 6 and 7) because of the spatial constraints which enables the display of the work which would draw people inside. Mayron – Discobolus would be placed on the floor within the centre of the alcove room, this would be so that as people walk through the door the first thing that would capture their eye would be the statue. The alcove also has small windows meaning the statue will be well lit, but also enhance the fetchers. This would fit well within this space of the gallery. The left wall would be the huge print of Pelle Cass of the divers in the collection of crowded fields, then on the right wall would be the prints of Eadweard Muybridge, Animal Locomotion, next to that would be Wrestlers - Van Gogh's hidden portrait as it, lastly would be the picture of Rumble in the Jungle - Muhammad Ali v George Foreman by Neil Leifer which has two options from Leifer's website so it could be made large or small to fit this area (options 16x20 and 20x30).

FLOOR PLANS OF THE MISSION GALLERY

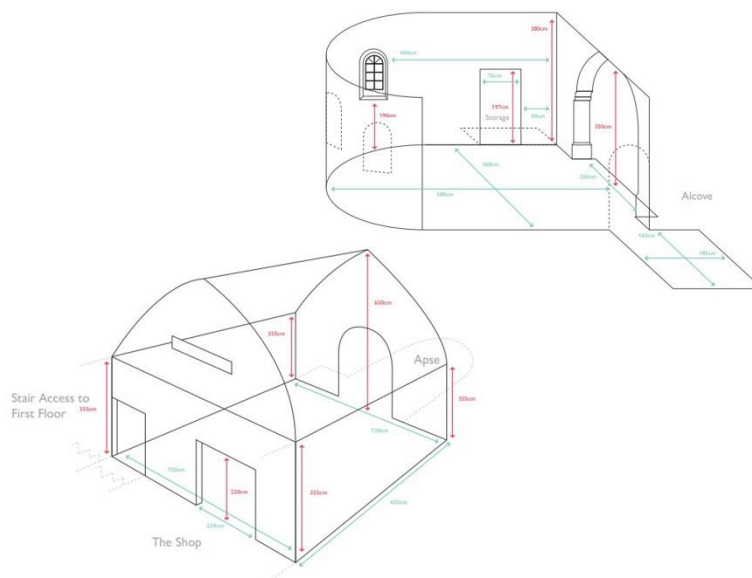


Fig. 8 Gallery Floor Plans C

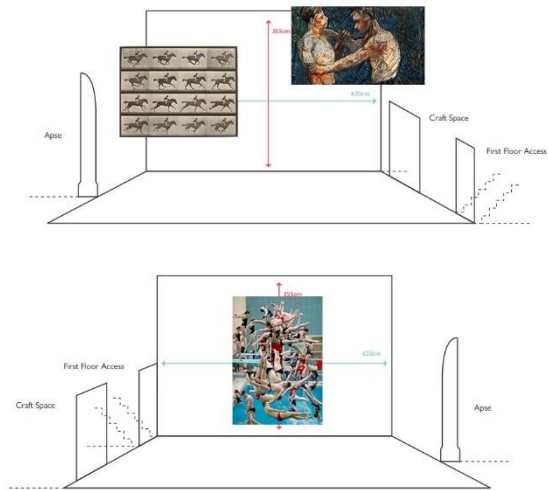


Fig 9 Gallery Floor Plans D

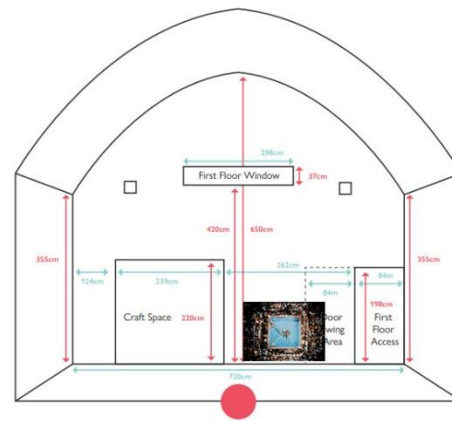


Fig 10 Gallery Floor Plans E

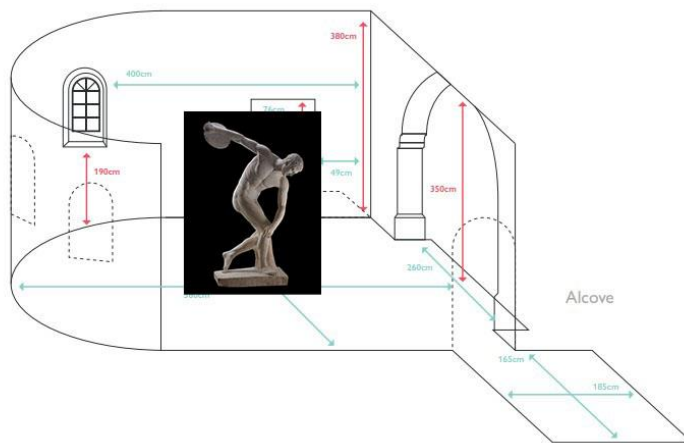


Fig 11 Gallery Floor Plans F

Reference List

List of Illustrations

Figure 1: Muybridge, E. (ca. 1887) *Muybridge Animal Locomotion*, plate 626. [Digital Images].

Retrieved from [https://library-artstor-](https://library-artstor-org.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/asset/SS7732016_7732016_12335854)

[org.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/asset/SS7732016_7732016_12335854](https://library-artstor-org.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/asset/SS7732016_7732016_12335854)

Figure 2: Cass, P. (2018) *BU Terrier Invitational, Day One* in 'Crowded Fields' [Photograph]. Available at: <https://pelleccass.com/crowded-fields> (Accessed: 23/02/2023)

Figure 3: Leifer, N. (1974) *Rumble in the Jungle Muhammad Ali v George Foreman* [Photograph]. Available at:

<https://neilleifer.com/products/muhammad-ali-vs-george-foreman-signed-print> (Accessed: 10/03/2023)

Figure 4: Myron (450 BCE) *Discobolus*. [Sculpture] Available at:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1805-0703-43 (Accessed: 04/04/2023)

Figure 5: Van Gogh, V. (1866) *Wrestlers* [Oil on Canvas] Available at:

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Figure 6: UWTSD (no date) *Gallery Floor Plan A* [digital image] Available at:

<https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=480419> (Accessed: 09/04/2023)

Figure 7: UWTSD (no date) *Gallery Floor Plan B* [digital image] Available at:

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Figure 8: *Gallery floor plans C* [digital image] available at: <https://www.missiongallery.co.uk/apply/>

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Figure 9 : *Gallery floor plans D* [digital image] available at: <https://www.missiongallery.co.uk/apply/>

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Figure 10: *Gallery floor plans E* [digital image] available at: <https://www.missiongallery.co.uk/apply/>

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Figure 11: *Gallery floor plans F* [digital image] available at: <https://www.missiongallery.co.uk/apply/>

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Additional Reading List

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