Title: Ways of Perceiving, *Chaos - Human Nature*

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The exhibition, entitled *Chaos – Human Nature* will look at how the chaos of the world is guided by us and our human nature to bend things to our will.

I am curating an exhibition of five photographs to show the modern-day chaos of the world over history and how the human race feel/cope with the chaos we have essentially gotten ourselves into. "Photographs bear witness to a human choice being exercised in a given situation" (Berger, 2013, p. 18).

The five chosen images are from photographers of the world because they get to see the chaos of the world more than usual. We will also look at the truth within the images. "A photograph is effective when the chosen moment which it records contains a quantum of truth" (Berger, 2013, p. 20).

Scientists use chaos theory to measure the weather, astronomy, politics, and economics. Chaos theory also known as the butterfly affect ("deterministic chaos"), coined by Edward Lorenz (1961), is the theory that if something as small as the flapping of a butterfly's wings in one country, could cause a tornado in another part of the world a few weeks later.

Lorenz (1961) discovered this after he initially ran his weather simulation using a simple computer model. He then wanted to run it again but for a longer time another day. But

instead of running it from the very beginning, he ran it from the middle, typing in numbers from the first run. As the computer was the same, the weather patterns should have been the same as the first one. But the two paths quickly separated completely, giving different trajectories. Lorenz had indivertibly entered a rounded number and even this small discrepancy of less than 0.1% could cause a massive difference in results.(Kenneth Chang, NYTimes, (2008).

Does this mean the idea of doing the same exact thing over and over again, could result in different outcome every time? And that we can never truly predict anything without measuring/knowing every exacting variable. If chaos is the study of predictability, what affect does that have on us as the human race? Does this have an effect on the idea of free will? Is it the study of Cause and Effect? And does this mean with one change to the path we have chosen to go down, would mean a change in our future forever?

The exhibition will be held in busy Piccadilly circus on the Landsec billboard for all passers-by to see, played on a loop. Every Image will play for 5 minutes each, to allow each image great exposure to the general public. With a News style crew standing at the bottom of the screen, to ask passers-by questions about how they feel about the image? How they think it impacts them? And does it matter to them at all?
I choose this location for the sheer volume of foot traffic that goes by on a daily basis. It plays a key role in the exhibition because London is an international city, so the opinions would be highly diverse.

"We think of photographs as works of art, as evidence of a particular truth, as likenesses, as news items. Every photograph is in fact a means of testing, confirming and

constructing a total view of reality. Hence the crucial role of photography in ideological struggle." (Berger, 2013, p. 21).

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



On the left the iconic Piccadilly Lights, Advertising Billboard screen owned by Landsec.

On the right is a Screen shot of the street view of Piccadilly Circus showing the billboard.

From Google Maps

Fig 3

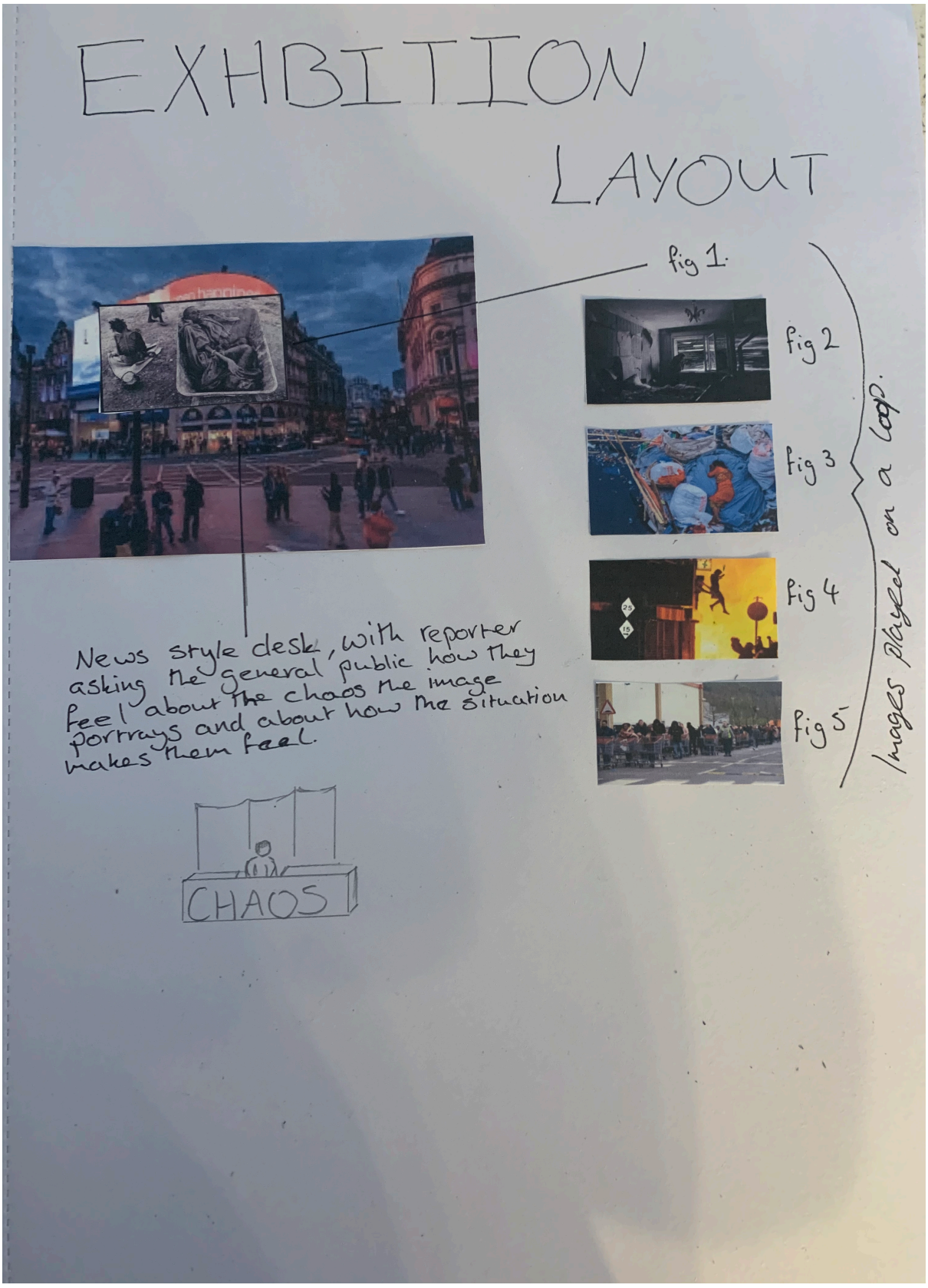

EXHBITION
LAYOUT
fig 1.
fig 2
fig 3
fig 4
fig 5.
Images played on a loop.
News style desk, with reporter asking the general public how they feel about the chaos the image portrays and about how the situation makes them feel.
CHAOS

Fig. 4



Famine in Somalia, James Nachtwey (*1992)*

The first image which would be shown for five minutes, is one by James Nachtywey (1992) show casing the famine in Somalia and the devastating affects of the warring factions at the time, compounded by drought can have on a society. In his words 'hunger was being used as a weapon of mass destruction' (Somalia Famine, Behind James Nachtwey's, 100 Photos, Time (2016).

I have chosen this image to demonstrate the chaos of Famine and how without initial intervention, how bad the situation could get with limited aid. Political chaos of the world is still continuing now in countries around the globe. I want the viewer to have a sense of how the people of Somalia suffered and to have empathy for them. The chaos caused by civil unrest is very apparent when viewing this image. The chaos caused by humans fighting; cause and effect. This ties with the butterfly affect where the war has led to famine of a nation.

Fig. 5



James Nachtwey, Bosnia, (1993)

Chaos of war. This image will also play for five minutes for passers-by.

We are so used to the chaos of war that unless it directly affects us, we do not pay attention to the horrors it inflicts. This image of ethnic cleansing in Mostar. A Croat militiaman fires on his Moslem neighbours. The image demonstrates how the chaos of war is devastating and showing humans at their worst. Political chaos / Religious chaos has always and always will be the most dangerous of all chaos to the human race. Human nature is to be inherently self-centred and to only see things from your own point of view, hence why there is so much war throughout history.

Fig. 6



Amdad Hossain, Dhaka (2019) – a women sleeps on a dirty riverbank.

Chaos of pollution. This image will be played for five minutes for passers-by.

The chaos of the environment that we have caused is an astounding one. The image captures how we as humans have been allowed to pollute our environment. Environmental chaos cannot be solved without political intervention. I choose this image because it shows how little we care about the environment and our fellow man.

Fig. 7



Amy Weston (2011)

Chaos of riots. This image will be also played for five minutes.

As humans we have the ability to be great and the ability to be evil. The shooting of Mark Duggan by the police is said to have started the riots in Tottenham which then became the London riots in august 2011. This image taken by photographer Amy Weston, is of a woman jumping for her life after her home had been set ablaze by the fires set during the riots. This image is of the pure chaos at its most poignant moment. The bravery of everyone involved is astounding.

Fig. 8



Martin Dalton (2020)

Social chaos. This image will also play for five minutes.

We are now going through Chaos on a global scale with the Corona Virus. People are panic buying things like toilet paper and hand sanitiser. We see this as chaos because it is an unprecedented situation, in our lifetime. Due to the fact we cannot control the virus. The photo taken shows the panic that has been brought on by the pandemic.

Chaos theory from a scientific point of view would ask whether this could have been avoided by a change in our behaviour. Like the butterfly effect; Could have acting sooner stopped the death toll being so high?

It is believed that the virus began in China's Wuhan Market, (but this is not known for sure), were they believe the virus came from humans interacting with an infected animal. Most people believe it came from bats. And most believe there was an intermediary animal that possibly passed it to bats first and then on to us (The Guardian, (2019).

The global chaos that has ensued, has us all struggling to cope with the severity of the outbreak. Chaos in this situation we are in has manifested itself as a self-preservation mind set which has come to take over our lives. Is this the end of normality as we know it for the future going forward?

Chaos theory pertains to all the images be it social, political or pollution. There is always an aspect of the butterfly effect for each of them. Chaos in the world is a state of utter confusion and disarray. Barthes (1980) said “Chaotic photography represents that ‘very subtle moment when to tell the truth” (Barthes, p14) and as you can see, the images show the raw truth of human nature.

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