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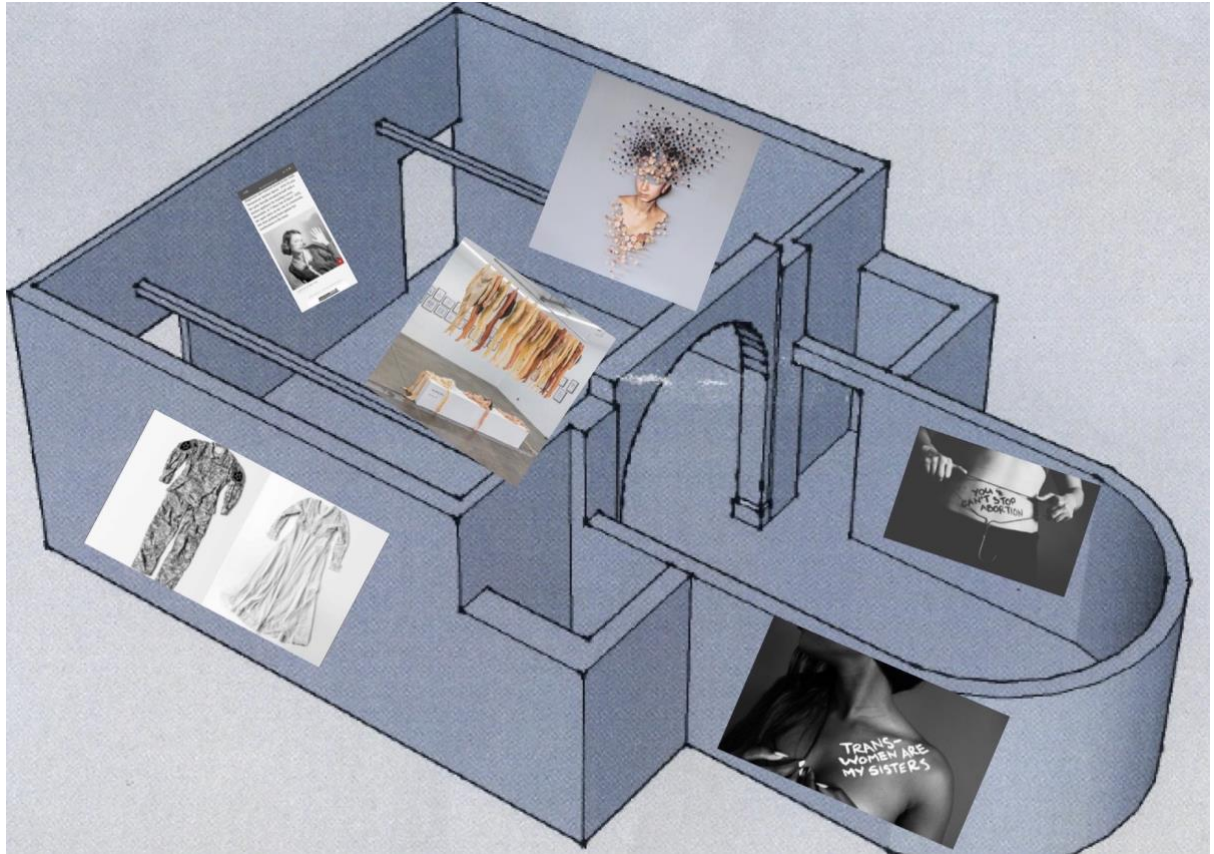
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EXHIBITION TITLE: Viribus

Map of exhibition:



Viribus is an exhibition that I have curated to touch on topics that have been talked about for many years and that has followed us along through the ages on many journeys. I spent a lot of time searching for the right pieces to include in my work which abled me to have more knowledge on curating my exhibition. This exhibition talks about aspects of feminism, rape culture, female identity, abortion, transphobia against transwomen and many more issues. I chose to do the exhibition around these topics as they are very much

still issuing in today's society and though I do believe progression has been made around this but there are still a lot of issues that come with being a female that I would like to talk about and be prominent factors of this exhibition. These topics that I am going to include in my exhibition will be topics that can have multiple views on them and appear controversial, but all stated are my own. I've named this exhibition 'Viribus' as it is the Latin word for strength which comes under a lot of the pieces that are seen in the exhibition. I have used the floorplan of mission gallery to curate this as that is where it will take place. The mission gallery is a small place made up of two spaces, the first being a rectangle shape while the second is more enclosed and is a round half oval shape. Something I would do if this was to happen is to have all the walls painted white so that the photographs will be able to stand out against the wall making the space feel brighter to be in and to walk around.

Figure 1



In the middle of the first space I am going to place the installation piece “Shedding skins” by Polly Nor as it will be most effective and instantly catch attention beginning thoughts inside the viewers brain. By this being in the middle of the room it allows the spectators to get up close and really engage with the art work. Having this in the middle of the room will also allow people to be able to walk around it and see it from all angles of the exhibition. This installation piece is made out of latex skin suits and are hand made by her which shows a lot of determination to craft such art. This piece was part of her own exhibition “ It’s Called Art Mum, Look It Up” which touches on a lot of issues to do with women and identity. I think this works well within the exhibition as it shows that all women have different skin that they hide behind and have a lot of layers due to struggling to conform to society normality.

Figure 2



In front of installation 1, there will be a photograph from 1976 called “I want out of here” by Birgit Jurgenssen. This photograph was a way for Jurgenssen to break the tradition of women being bound to their homes to be a housewife which I think is powerful. In 1976 and many years before it was the normality for women to stay at home and do the housework so having this in the exhibition will show the growth and power that has come since then while some might still relate to this. The time this was made makes the image a lot more effective as the issue was much more prominent back then and I believe it was a way for women to finally feel connected. According to the independent “Women do approximately 16 hours of household chores every week, while men do closer to six” (independent, 2019) which is “less than half the 44 **hours** spent on average doing domestic **chores** during the 1960’s” (The Telegraph, 2012) which shows a slight decline showing that as a society were on the right track to breaking this stereotype. To me it is important to credit people like Birgit Jurgenssen as they paved the way so many others can talk about issues similar to this that’s another reason, I wanted to include her work into the exhibition.

Figure 3



This photograph “on rape” by Laia Abril will be put on the left wall of the exhibition and take up the whole space as this piece of work is something that is so powerful yet sad due to the story behind it. The army uniform represents a woman who was raped by the commander and the other is a dress of a women who was a victim of bride kidnapping. Abril works closely with the victims earning their trust, so she is able to share their powerful stories. The way the clothing is placed takes the viewer back and opens conversations that are not very spoken about. Rape victims can be any gender and does not define a person I think this photograph shows an insight into these two situations and the many other situations that can happen. Bride kidnapping is a big problem in Kyrgyzstan where “About one in five young women and girls in Kyrgyzstan are kidnapped for marriage” (Reuters, 2017) “Shock figures reveal 250 females in British Armed Forces raped or sexually assaulted in three years” (Daily Record,

2018) I believe this isn't in the media a lot as these people are too scared to talk about it and bring attention to it. Until researching this image I had no clue how much of an issue this was in some places so I this is why I would also like to put the stories of the two women in a book next to the images so that if someone wanted to read on they could and if they didn't want to then they wouldn't have to but by doing that it would bring the topic to be more known and more spoken about.

Figure 4



On the right side next to the figure 1 shall be this piece by Micaela Lattanzio which explores the fragment of female identity. She is an Italian contemporary artist who uses multiple materials to create and deconstruct her portraits of females. Which represents how the woman defines herself and what she will associate herself with this is a massive part of being a woman. The way the

image is deconstructed makes it look as though she has lost apart of her identity or is struggling while others could see the female building her identity up and those are the pieces joining together. A lot of people can understand the identity struggles and that's why think it fits perfect within the exhibition space. This image also fits nicely with figure 1 and 3 as sexual assault survivors struggle with their identity "the identity disruption produced by sexual assault is positively associated with posttraumatic stress"

(<https://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/attach/journals/jul17smhfeature.pdf>) so them 3 pieces being surround each other link with one another.

Figure 5 and 6



Both these images are by Liora K 'feminism,2012' she decided to create these images as she was witnessing a lot of abuse against birth control, abortion rights, equal pay, domestic violence and decided to create an artistic response to the negativity. Liora began using photography as a way to express since the age of 18 years old. All Liora work is collaborative with volunteers after she takes the photos "all are fully involved in conceptualizing their photoshoots and editing the images afterwards" (HuffPost, 2015) which is amazing the way she gives a voice to hundreds of women and help them share their opinions .

I am going to put these two images together in the Oval so it can be more personal to the person viewing the image. I chose the first image as abortion is a very touchy topic even in today's society and I believe strongly that a woman can do whatever she wants with her body even if that is an abortion. I do praise and support the women that do choose to have one which is why it was a must to put it in my exhibition as I want it to have in impact and start a conversation by normalising it whether someone is against it or not. This photo stood out to me as its simple yet effective.

The second photo reads "transwomen are my sisters" which is something I stand by and believe in as transwomen are women and just as important. I decided to go with this image as well as the other as transphobia is something that is still a big issue and I know that as I have witnessed some horrific things

being said. By adding this into my exhibition was a way of saying we stand with everyone. “Transgender individuals and communities experience shocking amounts of violence and discrimination” (<https://vawnet.org/sc/serving-trans-and-non-binary-survivors-domestic-and-sexual-violence/violence-against-trans-and>) knowing that many individuals experience a lot of violence is utterly shocking which is why this is something that needs to be spoken about more often.

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