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Research Evaluation

For this body of work, I chose to depict the Coronavirus crisis in terms of how the UK government prepared and reacted to the crisis. The title of the work relates to this as we now continuously hear the word “Unprecedented” to describe a pandemic that the government have apparently succeeded at controlling. This was referred to in an article by Will Hayward for Wales online on the 22nd of April where he described his “emotional reaction to the relentless use of the word” as being “a complex combination of fury and boredom”. (Wales Online, Please can we stop using the word ‘unprecedented’..., 2020)

I also wanted to highlight how I see the government is wasting money on nuclear submarines instead of spending it on the NHS. From my previous work with the political image project I wanted to highlight this here. My inspiration for this came, in part, from a film called *The Bomb* where they state that “The widespread lack of knowledge about them, the lack of public debate about them, makes the danger even worse. Our silence is a form of consent” when discussing nuclear weapons.

I felt that this tied in with the fact that I had tried to engage debate around the issue with my fellow students during a lecture on the political image and was surprised by how many had absolutely no idea what Trident is.

My idea manifested itself in a nuclear cloud background for a subject on a mobile phone. This also tied in with musical inspiration from Nine Inch Nails who released two albums at the beginning of the pandemic. I tried to envision photos to tie in with the titles of each song and the music in them. For this subject the piece of music was titled “When it Happens (Don’t mind me)” which I also named the photo.

The other subject I wanted to highlight as part of this project was the climate emergency. Some of the images I created raised this and it was partly inspired by another film called *Planet of the Humans*. One of the most powerful things that I saw from this film was an end credit that said “Humankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery – not of nature, but of itself”. This was written by Rachel Carson in 1962 and I feel it incredibly relevant for today’s society given that parts of Wales suffered huge flooding not long before the lockdown. This was highlighted in photos by Gareth Phillips in a Guardian article.

References

1. 2020. [online] Available at: <<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/news-opinion/coronavirus-unprecedented-government-covid-excuses-18130261>> [Accessed 10 May 2020].
2. *The Bomb*. 2016. [film] Directed by K. Ford, S. Keshari and E. Schlosser.
3. 2020. *Ghosts VI: Locusts*. [online] Nine Inch Nails.
4. *Planet of the Humans*. 2020. [film] Directed by M. Moore.

5. Morris, S., 2020. *'Horrendous': Welsh Residents Endure Lockdown In Flood-Hit Homes*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/27/horrendous-welsh-residents-endure-lockdown-in-flood-hit-homes-coronavirus>> [Accessed 10 May 2020].

UNPRECEDENTED

by

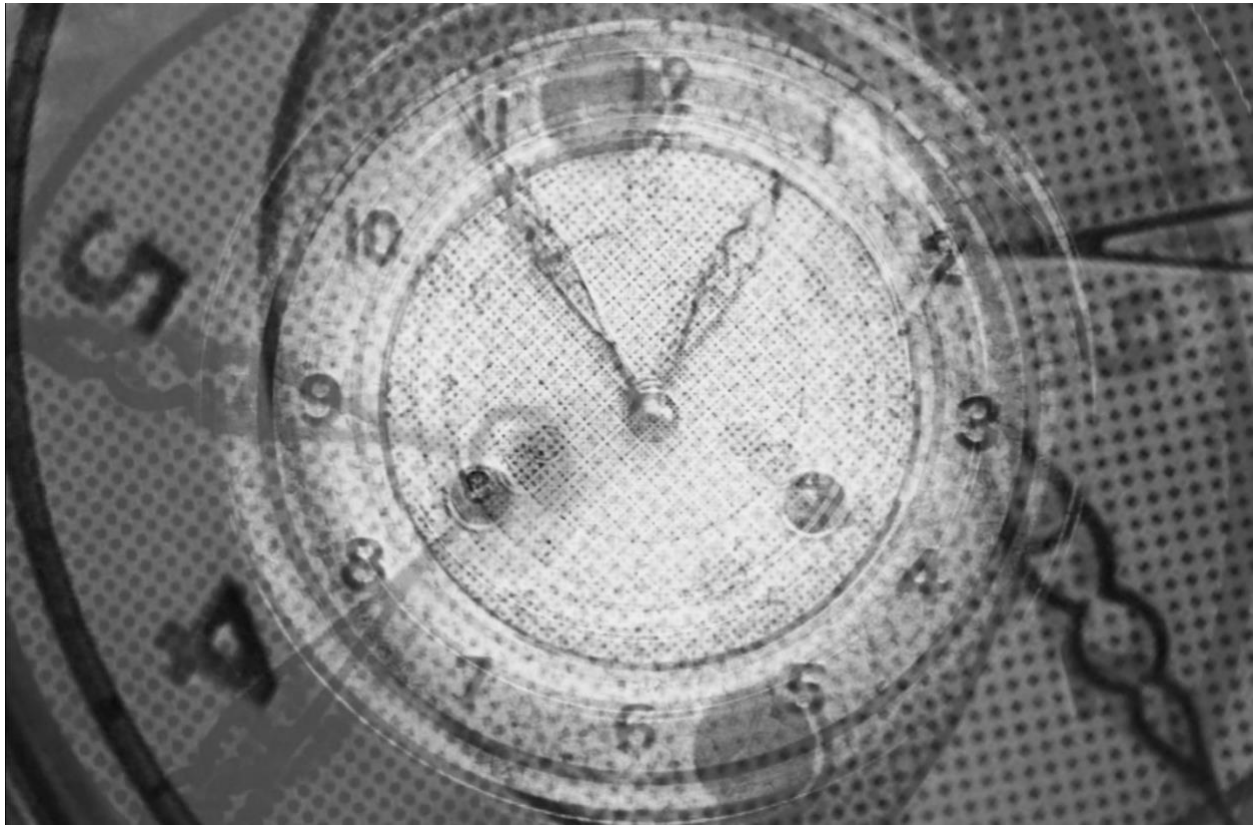
Ben Evans



Out in the open.



Temp Fix.



The cursed clock.



Trust fades.



Still right here.



Around every corner.



When it happens (Don't mind me)



A really bad night.