

On arrival at the Camarthenshire museum, that sense of anticipation was somewhat underwhelmed by this old looking building which didn't exactly seem as if it was a museum, but more of an old manor house. The walk in led me straight to the old styled Welsh dresser which was filled with ancient styled ceramics painted brightly with birds, houses resembling ancient Chinese architecture, and fruits. My first instinct on looking at these was the emphasis that the ceramics wanted to show off their representation for the importance of life, virtue and a good way of living which was highlighted through the three main characteristics painted. The birds to me represented the artists freedom, their hope and their connection to the living world. The architecture showed a desire to bring alive an ancient civilization and made me wonder if it had a deeper connection to the artist on a philosophical aspect rather than just an image. The main thing that stood out to me however, was the fruits painted. The brightly coloured fruit made me question many things about them which made me feel engaged from the off at the museum. Questions such as was there a deeper meaning to the fruits colours? And if so, was it to represent life, perhaps nutrition, or perhaps was it to show gratitude to their health? I also felt the lighting above them was fitting, the natural light from the door allowed them to have a natural shine, but the ceiling lighting gave it that extra glow to bring it all to life.

Walking into the coal mining section however was very underwhelming. Seeing as Wales is a nation with a rich history of coal mining, I didn't feel like it was represented in the right way. It was almost pushed into the corner with only a single uniform and helmet to show with a small information board with very minimal information. The lighting also did not represent its history to the fullest extent. It did however represent that coal mining was a male dominated industry shown by the uniform being fit for a man and the images next to it. Also in that same small room was meant to be a clog making area, this however also left me disappointed as it was empty and appeared they hadn't cleaned the area after removing whatever was meant to be there.

I then went back into the main area as I felt I wanted to see if there was more to see in there. I spotted the winged arm chair which left me engaged for a period of time with questions on its meaning. Questions such as did the solid wood back and raised platform show a sign of importance and power for the person sitting in it? Also in the museum was the eisteddfod chair with a similar build to it, so that then led me to more questions. My theory came that both were used to spread poetry and stories during their respective times which also shows how the change in conveying messages and poems has changed from public awareness on a raised chair with a status, to a less decorated art form which is now rarely shown. Just as I was about to leave the main area and go to the second floor, my eyes were caught by two pieces of art which were almost hidden, which I could not understand why.



(Authors Own) The paintings were called 'A Summer Lane' (top) and 'Towy Valley Farm' (bottom). Above all that stuck out to me about these paintings was that I noticed that other than some trees and grass, neither had any other form of life to it which really made me wonder if this was intentional by the artists with a deep showing to the future with abandoned buildings and nature taking over once again.

Walking up the grand stairs made me think of the kind of people who had walked up them throughout history, the wealthy who had gone for celebrations and parties to people taking their family for a day at the museum, each with their own different experience there and their own stories to tell, which made me feel quite privileged in a way that my experience would also be there for history for others to wonder about as well.



(The Red Structure, John Petts, from artuk.org) The painting 'the red structure' stuck out to me in the 1940's section of the museum. To me, it shows John Petts pain, anguish and sadness intertwining through the mixed colours of blue and red in a destructive way which could be used to show that human

emotions are messy and destructive. It could also be this chaotic way as a representation of what society was like at that time not long after the war had ended. The layout of this section also stuck out to me. To me, it clearly showed to me how society perceived gender roles at that time with a strong emphasis of the female at home in the kitchen preparing food and cleaning while also caring for a baby, while the male section had the nicely set up suits and war time uniform which were set up fit for men which i think appropriately highlighted the gender specific roles during the 1940's and 1950's. The appliances however to me weren't projected enough despite it being the time technology and appliances started to truly evolve. The only appliance that was truly on a main display was the old telephone that I saw when entering the room. The rest, such as a hoover and iron, were more hidden away in the women's section rather than on display with the mannequins.

Walking into the Bishop's palace chapel gave me a sense of wonder for more and to explore it further than any of the other rooms with all the detail put in. It especially made me wonder how the behaviours, language and chants used would probably have developed and been changed through time. The Bible in the chapel, which was placed on the head of the chapel, was clearly more well designed to show its importance to their faith. Overall, the experience of going to the museum gave me much to think about in terms of a philosophical point of view and left me engaged, but i was very underwhelmed by the lack of information given from the information boards as I found them to be very condensed and basic which didn't really show the stories of what they were explaining.