

Looking into the light essay

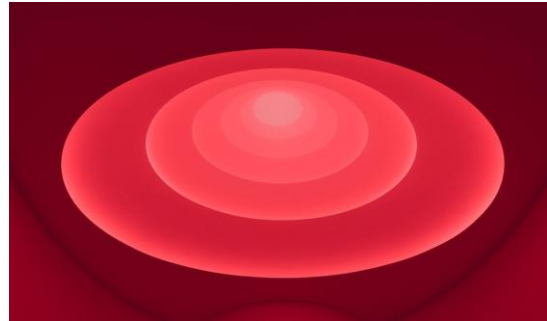
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Module: Learning in The Digital Era ADAA4000

Exabition lighting research

In this short piece of writing, I am going to explore the relevance of lighting within the exhibition space. I decided to look at two different exhibitions. Firstly, I decided to look at is James Turrell work that was displayed in Guggenheim called Aten Reign, which was created in 2013.

The work was produced using an array of interlocking cones lined with LED fixtures and combined with 5 elliptical rings that have changing-colored lights. The artwork creation idea was used to accentuate the building unique structure, which was created by Frank Lloyd. By incorporating Turrell's use of combined natural and artificial lighting he heightens those features that are usually well hidden from other people's view, to give a new perspective to the exhibition space. This means that



just light on its own is an important factor when considering the nature of curation concept as the way that the work is arranged is a decisive aspect to the impact an instillation has on the viewer.

The second exhibition I decided to analyze is the hayward light display called light show. This explores the concept of how other people response to illumination and colour through sculpture. As, the display mainly focuses on using artificial light as a transforming tool to influence one's sense of space and perception works which happens to explore a common theme that what we see or think we see is not how things always are. So, in my opinion lighting in this specific display can be putted into a debate because due the nature of the work itself being based on light, artificial lighting seems insignificant because considering the fact the work is already visible, because isn't that the purpose of going into an exhibition at the first place, due to the entire display being based primarily around light work. But on the other hand, due to the various interpretations one can have on light it might not be as flashy or stand out as much if the entire exhibition space was in complete darkness than visual aid like background lighting then would be crucial to the audience viewing the display even though it can affect the final impact that the work can have due to the surrounding light.

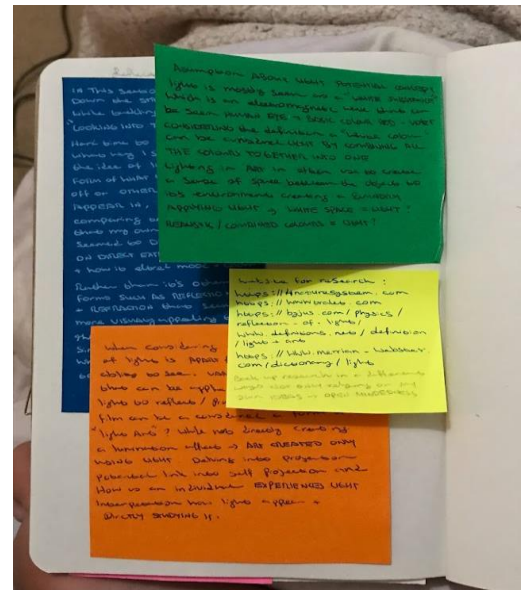
Individual research:

The entire research process of looking into the light was a thought-provoking experience that was full of ups and downs. Because the concept by itself is very hard to define as there are too many potential approaches to investigate one idea, which made me feel backed against the wall because I wasn't sure which direction would be appropriate to follow as there is no right and wrong answer in Art. To sort out this issue I decided to solidify those concepts by creating a short research page in my visual study notebook to show a variety of options of how I can tackle the work taking inspiration from things I have been doing or getting inspired from to make my research be more inclusive to different ideas instead of taking the easy root and just doing what I like.

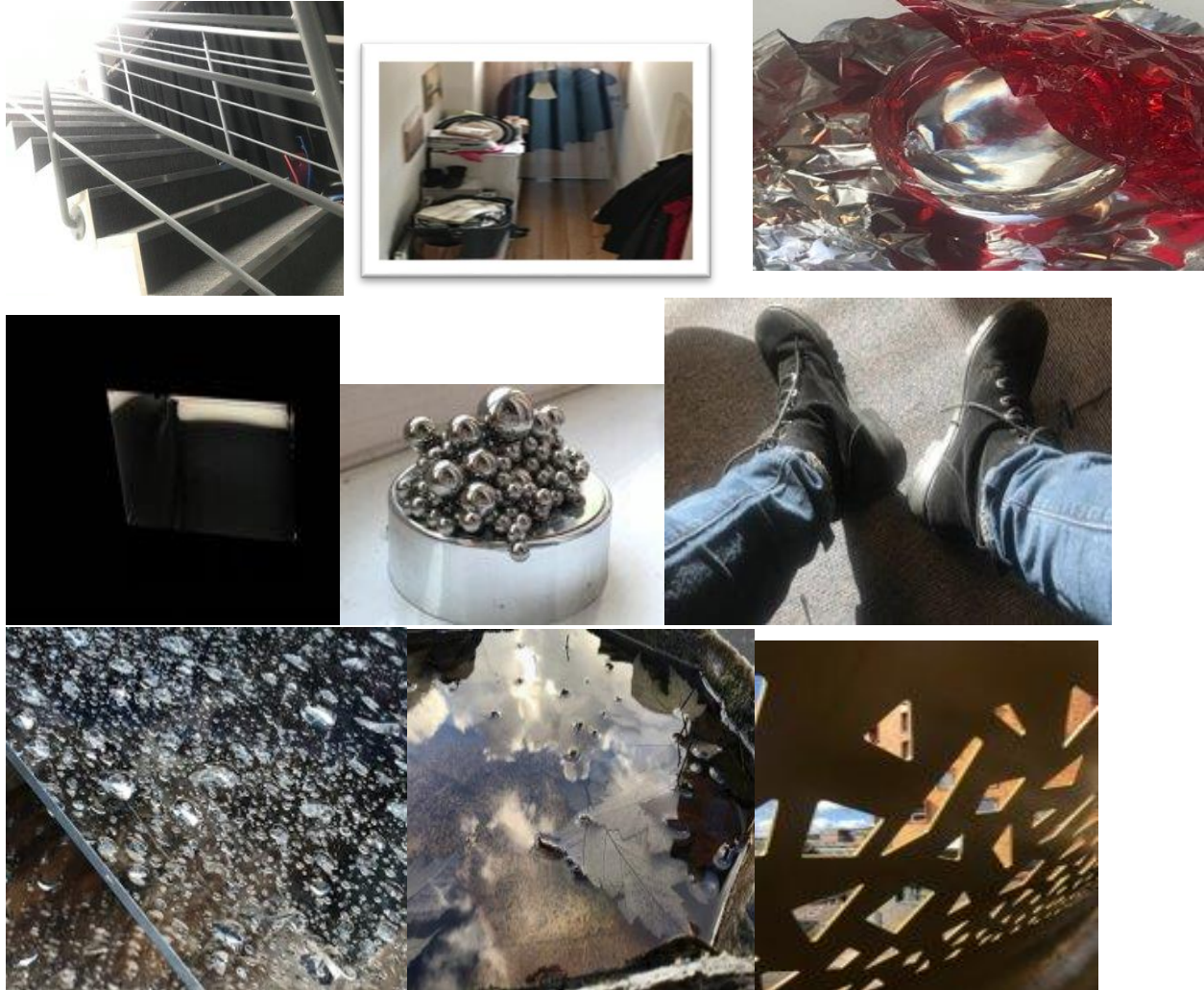
Research concept evidence: orange card inspired by Cardiff exhibition work connecting film to light as a form of projection. Blue note struggles and issues tackling light. Green and yellow posted notes writing my findings and websites to back self-indulged research portion.



However, during this process I felt confident that I knew where my specific interests lay however, as much as its strength it's also a weakness because of the awareness and knowing what I want to look for, compared to what have been taught in class is very deviated, which gave me a sense of uncertainty while complying meaningful endeavors in relation to light.



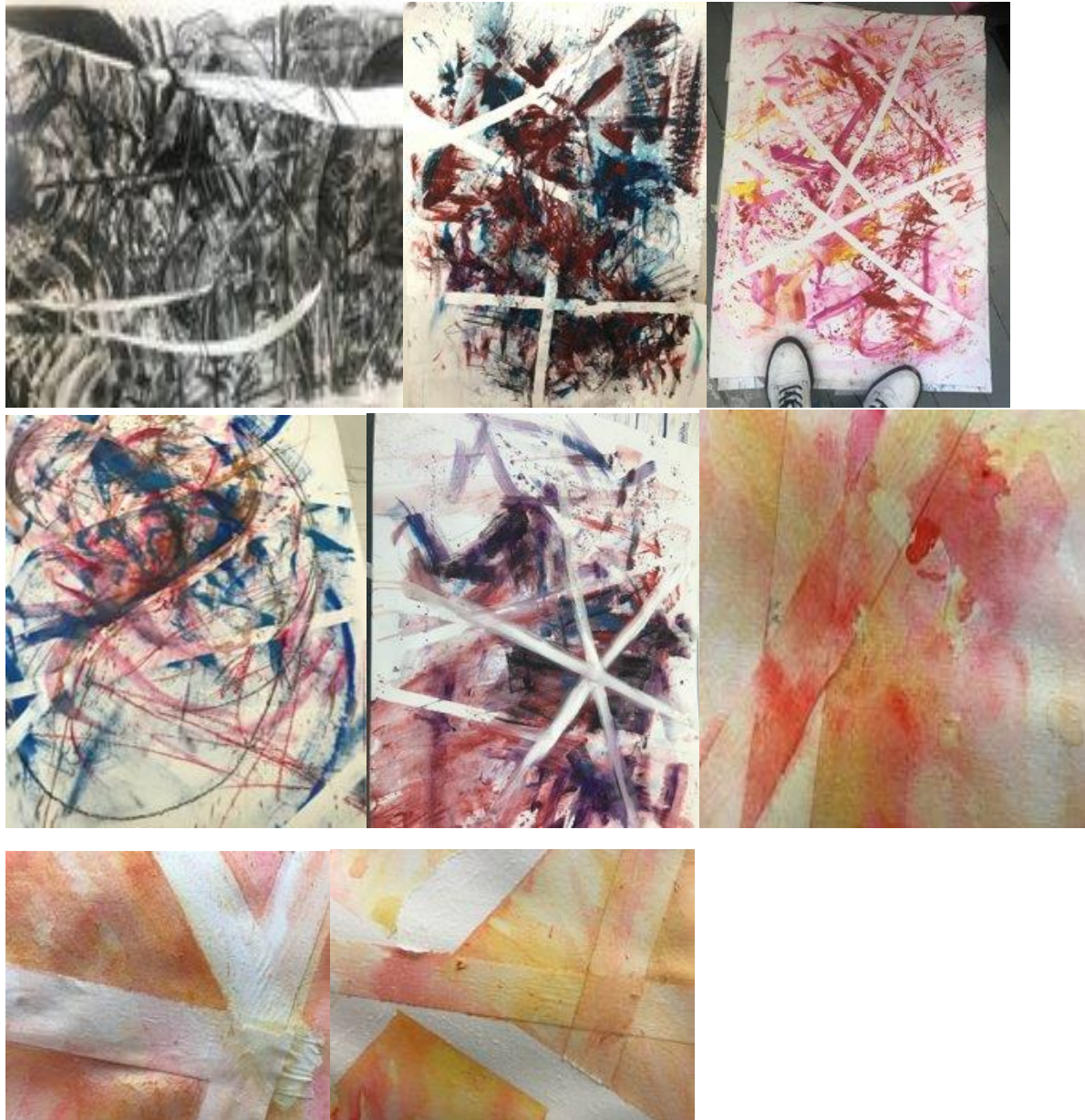
Collation of photographs work that were consciously done in response to light to provide some form of influence agents when exploring my work to spark an interest, which were inspired from both Adam's photography workshop and Sue's lightwork. Their purpose is showing a diverse interpretation of a common theme to explore but is not necessarily applied to my own visual studies work.



Throughout this research I found a satisfactory concept by investigating light from its scientific definition. As light is an electromagnetic wave which is perceived by the human eye as 7 different colors from red to violet, and the combination of all those spectrums creates the white colour that has a similar appearance to light. So, from this understanding light can be used as a form of negative space within a work of art which I was greatly inspired by. That concept was influenced from our collaborative charcoal assignment primarily focusing on the relation of light and dark using that are applied through charcoal and various techniques to create this extreme contrast.

A key technique that I liked using was tape which was used to create a complete white space which I decided to further my understanding of how to use the medium in relation to light while using colour instead of black and white in my research.

Experimentation evidence in my visual studies work explaining the written paragraph from above with both abstract and figure in correlation to the light workshop by experimenting with different materials to see how I can redefine how I use tape in my work to “look into the light”



Sequential to the research I used my visual studies to experiment with my work mainly creating abstracted work in preference to figure studies to show my adaptability to try new things even though

the experience didn't provide me with good results to show in my studio space it taught me greatly by combining both test subjects to see what would turn out.

Photo's purpose: taking inspiration from looking into the light figure drawing where I experimented with only primary colors to create an indication of extreme light on the model and reflecting on the idea by trying to combine figure and abstract together.



My personal feeling towards this workshop is that I didn't find it useful or enjoyable for me because of my sensitivity to light which causes me to experience it differently to my classmate. This gave me a hard time participating in the darkroom workshops as I found the drastic change in lighting within my environment to be too much, that created a hardship in exploring the topic like everyone else. I found the experience to be ironic because even though I am aware of my own interests and didn't find the session to be beneficial to me it still gave me a new appreciation to the by taking into consideration that what I might find irrelevant could be useful in the long run.

Websites used for exhibition research and photo sample

Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). *James Turrell | American artist*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Turrell>.

The Guggenheim Museums and Foundation. (n.d.). *The Guggenheim Museums and Foundation*. [online] Available at: <https://www.guggenheim.org/exhibition/james-turrell>.

www.southbankcentre.co.uk. (n.d.). *Light Show | Southbank Centre*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/art-exhibitions/light-show>.