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Our Voice is Heard

The theme of this exhibition is moments and movements that have happened in history caused by inequality and segregation which have led to how we currently live. Historically white men of power have always had a higher-ranking voice compared to women and minority groups. “Women’s voices are like violins in an orchestra; men’s voices are the cellos. Because the female voice often registers at a higher tone than the male’s, women can be overlooked, unheard, or ignored.’ The images within this exhibition have been curated to fit within this theme to form part of a collection of art and an exhibition. The overall aim of this exhibition is to revisit these key moments and movement through art to remember how far inequality and segregation has come, no matter how big or little the step have been.



Fig 1A: Baker Street Underground Station

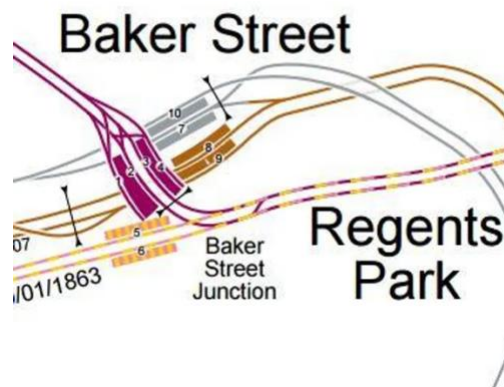


Fig 1B: Baker Street Map of Platforms

With the aim of this exhibition is to shine a light on these moments and movements through history that have shaped today's current life, 'Our voice is heard' exhibition will be held in Baker Street Underground Station. The London Underground system is 'the oldest, and one of the largest, underground railway networks in the world.' The idea behind holding 'Our voice is heard' exhibition in Baker Street Underground Station this is that these moments and movements have been buried in history and are occasionally remembered and acknowledged yet hold a lot of power to how to society has formed over the years. Baker Street Underground Station is made up of 10 platforms and each platform will be dedicated to each individual art pieces curated. As platforms 8 and 9 are the main platforms at this station this will be where two of the most important artworks will be presented. As majority of the artwork curated are posters from films, sections from these films will also be playing during the exhibition.



Fig 2: Suffragette, Sarah Gavron, 2015

Throughout history there have been very little equality between men, women and minority groups. However there have been major key events that have shaped our current future due to these inequalities. One being in 1903 when the suffragette movements began also known as Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). These were a group of women who came together to become the suffragettes who were 'part of the 'Votes for Women' campaign that had long fought for the right of women to vote in the UK.' (Museum of London) However, there was two different types of campaigning groups for the vote for women one being the 'suffragists' who campaigned using peaceful methods such as lobbying, and the 'suffragettes' who were determined to win the right to vote for women by any means. Their militant campaigning sometimes included unlawful and violent acts which attracted much publicity.' (UK Parliament) Overall the Suffragette movement often "used art, debate, propaganda, and attack on property including window smashing and arson to fight for female suffrage." (Museum of London) Although they mainly used violence as a way to catch the attention of the government this was in order to enable women the right to vote. However, it took 'the next 8 years for the Suffragettes' fight to win the vote became a highly public and, at times, confrontational struggle.'

These posters continue to demonstrate the theme of militance through different elements combined. One being the typeface used, typically you would tend to find this type of typeface used on war and army propaganda. The use of very little text also creates a sharp and to the point message. The colours used and the overall look and the facial expressions on these posters also implies that these women are willing to fight and do anything in order to get their right to vote.

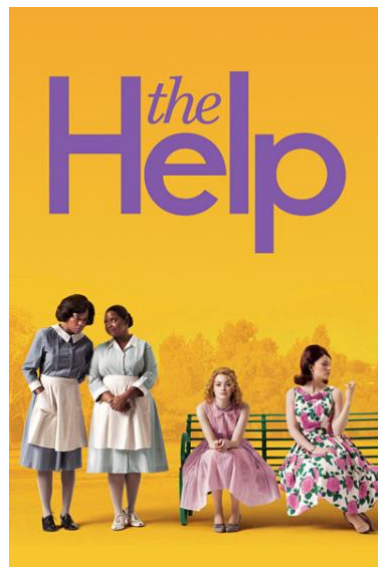


Fig 3: The Help, Tate Taylor, 2011

Arguably one of and to somewhat to this day, segregation against minority groups has created a huge impact in history. With racial segregation being 'the practice of restricting people to certain circumscribed areas of residence or to separate institutions (e.g., schools, churches) and facilities (parks, playgrounds, restaurants, restrooms) on the basis of race or alleged race.' along side gender inequality combined. The Help is based on actual circumstances that African American maids faced during the 1960's. During this time period it was the norm for African Americans to be used as objects rather than people to suit the

needs of white wealthy people. The 'social system as had existed under slavery except that sharecropping in the cotton fields had replaced slavery and the house servants were now domestic servants or maids.' (Katherine van Wormer).

The different elements within this particular poster creates a clear barrier between the maids and the white women but it also creates an element of harmony. The way in which the maids are standing next to the bench compared to the white women who are sitting on the bench further shows the different class levels and the segregation between black and white people. The use of the colours purple and orange in this poster implies luxury, power and wealth but also awareness.



Fig 4: Hidden Figures, Theodore Melfi, 2017

This particular artwork was designed for the film Hidden Figures, which was based on the untold story of Katherine Jonson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson all African American women who worked at NASA and 'served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John Glenn'. From a design point of view the overall initial message from this poster is there are three women linked to USA NASA space. However, looking deeper into the poster the different elements implies that these African American women are

determined, independent and resilient women that work for NASA. The way in which the women in this poster are standing suggests that each woman is equally important as they stand together and not one person is in front of the other. Another key element that implies this is the statement placed next to the title of the film “meet the women you don’t know; behind the mission you do”.

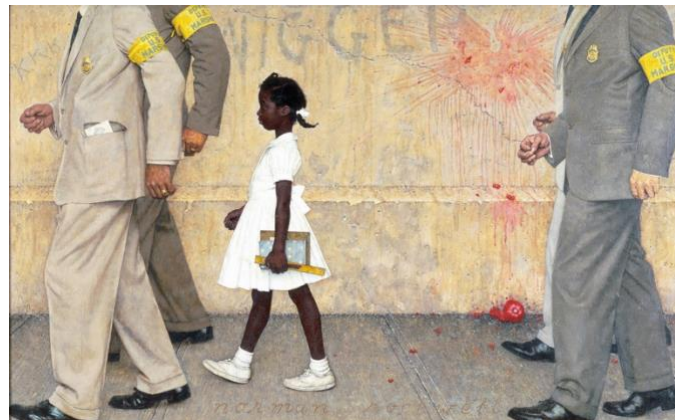


Fig 5: *The Problem We All Live With*, Norman Rockwell, 1963

‘The Problem We All Live With’ is a painting created by Norman Rockwell in 1963. This painting is of a young girl aged 6 being escorted to school on her first day which was also the first time children wasn’t segregated by the colour of their skin during school.

‘Ordered to proceed with school desegregation after the 1954 Brown v Board of Education ruling, Louisiana lagged behind until pressure from Federal Judge Skelly Wright forced the school board to begin desegregation on November 13, 1960’.

This piece of work is a powerful piece of art that shouts a thousand words. Hidden behind the main message hides much deeper messages that aren’t always seen but stays with certain people. Initially the viewer sees a young child dressed in a white dress

which shows that she is innocent, this is also shown by the way she is carrying her schoolbooks and supplies. Then other elements start to come together like the way in which the men are standing around the young girl. This implies they are protecting the little girl as she is standing in-between the four men. The arm bands which read 'Deputy U.S Marshal' that each of the men are wearing also suggest that the little girl could be at risk or can be harmed. But also, further continues to show that this has political action linking to the desegregation within schools during this time. As you look deeper into the painting you see 'kkk' and 'nigger' painted across the wall amongst the thrown food. This suggest that the surroundings in which they are in are not safe or welcoming to African Americans within the community.

To conclude, based in Baker Street Underground Station the aim of 'Our Voice is Heard' exhibition it to understand and revisit the different movements and moments which made and shaped our history without changing it but appreciating what these people fought for and sacrificed for the future generations.

In order to make the exhibition more successful the other six platforms at Baker Street Underground Station would also be filled with other artwork pieces relating the theme of moments and movements that have happened in history regarding segregation in inequality.

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Figure 1B: <https://www.indy100.com/news/london-underground-map-ghost-stations-platforms-sidings-amazing-7772231>

Figure 2: Suffragette, Sarah Gavron, 2015 <https://faroutmagazine.co.uk/film-review-suffragette/>

Figure 3: The Help, Tate Taylor, 2011 https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_help

Figure 4: Hidden Figures, Theodore Melfi, 2017 <https://www.lyrictheatre.com/past-show/9388-free-movie-summer-hidden-figures>

Figure 5: *The Problem We All Live With*, Norman Rockwell, 1963 <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/visual-arts/norman-rockwell--the-problem-we-all-live-with/>