PUBLIC OUTCOME



In the following essay I'm going to write about the public outcome and how it helped me develop some understandings about my studio work. In this term the project consisted in the organization of an exhibition that had place at the Bay Art Gallery in Herne Bay, for a week in April. This exhibition handed me the opportunity of exploring the curating area, and on the other hand, gave me an open door to exhibit my artwork outside the studio space, as well.

My studio work consists in portraiture, thus the subject I explore is, certainly, people. I've always been fascinated by people and how they live and interact together. I'm very interested both physical and emotional appearances. There's nobody equal to the other but somehow, we know they belong to the same group.

My paintings portrait women that I invent in my head, or at least I think so. What I mean by this is that, these women should somehow come from somewhere, maybe from my Portuguese roots or maybe from the today's society. However, what fascinates me about my work and what keeps me producing it is actually not knowing. The more I try to know the less I learn about it. Thus my work is about the moment I want to create and how it turns out in the canvas.

In this term I decided to par with Elena Perelló since I found important learning how to work in group with another creative mind and be surrounded by different ideas and concepts and, evidently, because we realize that the prizes to get a space in an exhibition weren't that accessible and affordable by our own. Besides the playfulness, which I wish it was a joke, paring with Elena helped me develop my abilities in how to produce and organize projects with another artists and taught me new theories about feminism, which is the subject she's interested in.

Since feminism is the theme she explores the most and a concept I would like to learn more about, we decided to produce a collaborative work based on how our society looks at women's body nowadays and how it is represented in the social media. By this being said, the objectification of the woman body is still present in the current days and is still real. Our aim is to make people realize how currently this problem still exists. Thus, one of the major factors in our society that confirms

this theories is the Porn industry. Along these lines, we decided to find a picture from a porn magazine and show it to the public and try to make people draw on top of it with a pen, whatever would come to their minds. The concept of this project was to understand the reaction from people when facing an exposed naked woman. The answers we got were very interesting, different people reacted in different ways, some accepted others didn't. I noticed that people that are not as comfortable and somehow not open yet to this subject found it very disturbing and the first reaction was to cover the woman's nipples and the vagina, while people whose topic wasn't new, decided to be more creative drawing on it without covering necessarily the "intimate" parts. With this project we conceived three more related works: a video recording two people, founded in the city center, that wouldn't mind to talk about this subject; an A0 printing of the same photo so people could draw collaboratively on top of it, again, but in the exhibition space; and a collaborative work between me and Elena exploring all these concepts and combining my painting with her collages.

The gallery we found had two floors. In the first floor we exposed the collaborative work I was mentioning above, while, in the second floor, our separated studio projects. The group work would call more for the public's interaction since we wanted to integrate that point into our exhibition. On the other hand, our own separate work was exhibited museum wise. In my opinion, both mine and Elena's works are distinct from each other. Perelló's work is turned to the political side, it criticizes whats wrong in our society and my work surrounds people's emotions. However, we both explore people and their limits, nonetheless in different ways. I find interesting how our art worked together in the gallery. Despite the clear differences between the subjects, they somehow did complement each other.

The keys of the gallery were handed to us for a week. Thus, we were in charge of the whole gallery which it was what, in my opinion, make us attached and worried about the sense of responsibility which students quite don't understand until they go through it. This was what the public outcome made me realize, how to work as an artist outside the university and how to actually advertise and experience the whole situation of having to curate our own work and exhibit it to the public's observations and comments which can be rather different from art tutors and students. The exhibition was publicized in the social media and it also included some flyers that we hang around

the city center and university. However, I consider this as the lowest point of the exhibition since we could have advertised it more around Herne Bay.

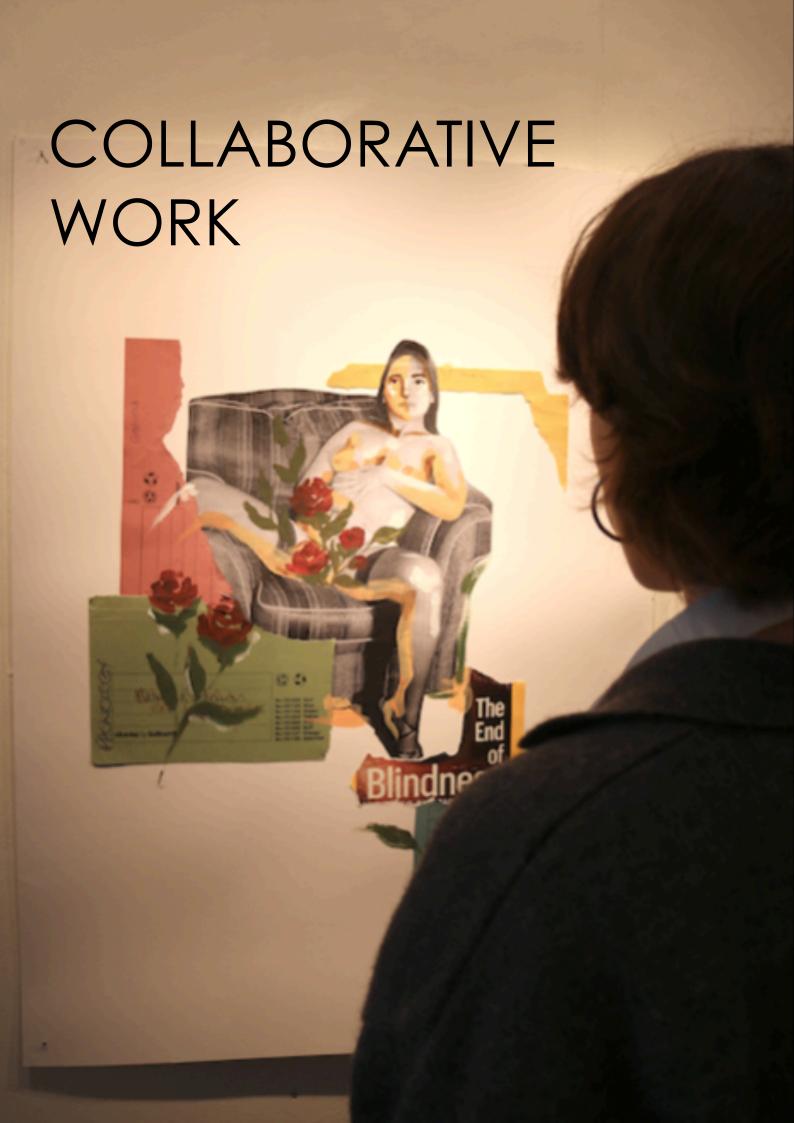
Overall, in my point of view, the public outcome we realized was very helpful in terms of learning how to get a space, how to chose it, how to advertise our work and how to make people engage with it. Earring the public's opinions and reviews about my work helped me understand the different perspectives that I couldn't see since I always get to close minded with my own pieces because the artist constantly creates this image of what the artwork should mean, however we forget that different people interpret different things.









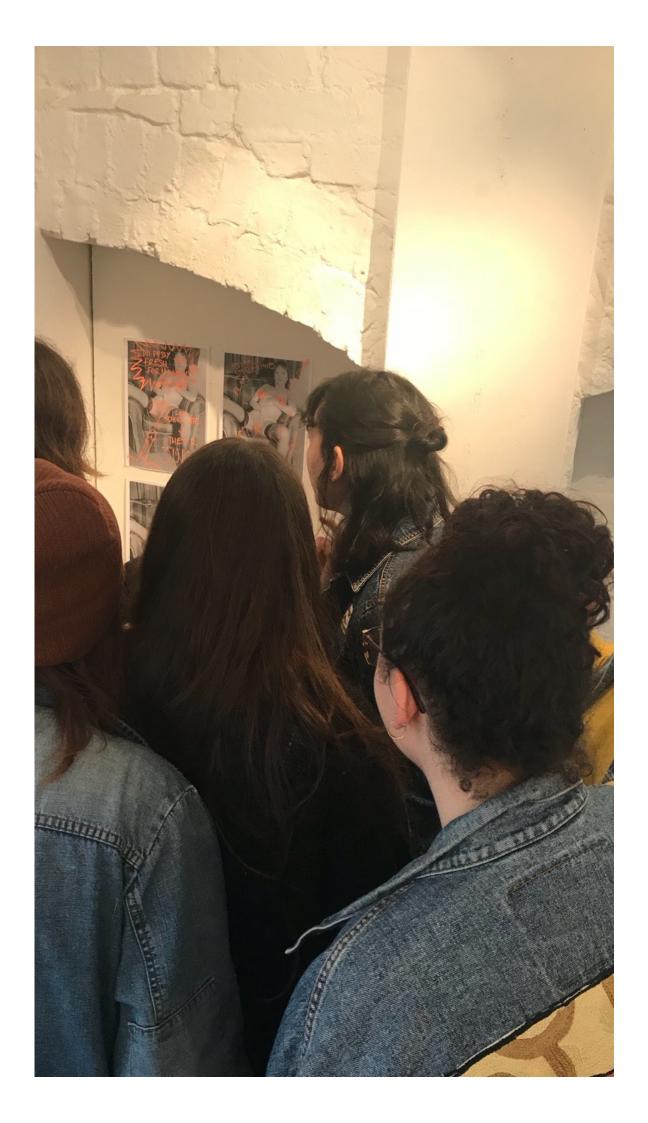


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