

Big Lamp Corner

Community Artist Project – Liz Milner

Photographic Project for 1st year students on Foundation Degree in Applied Art and Design at Weston College.

Key Themes:

Transformation – space, place and identity.

Opposition - disparate/ coherent; fragmented / focused; ephemeral/ monumental

Aims:

To develop observational awareness

To investigate and critically explore different approaches to photography

To engage with an understanding of professional practice

To understand the role of formal qualities within both spatial locations and 2D representations

Objectives:

To produce a body of work for exhibition in response to the brief

To support the body of work with sketchbooks, and recordings of your reading and research into other artists' work

To provide evaluative documentation of your processes over the course of the project

Required for Assessment:

Sketchbook/Reference to Artists

Evaluation Material

8 Photographs

9 On-site A4 Studies

Final body of work for Presentation

Big Lamp Corner Background:

The underlying theme that emerged from seeing the first presentations by the BLC shortlisted artists was **transformation**. All the artists submitting proposals for the Big Lamp Corner commission aimed to transform the location, while the winning Silica structure additionally refers to the transformation of the element silica – a component of sand - into glass. Their approaches were all concerned with the 'placelessness' of the Big Lamp Corner area, and its need for focus and an identity. Each group drew different ideas and themes together to seek a solution to creating a sense of place for the site.

However, within the theme of transformation, the artists' groups adopted different approaches which created an interesting contrast. Most of the shortlisted groups sought to balance the fragmentation, lack of focus and 'placelessness' of this location by creating a single unifying form. However, one group's concerns were a reverse of this and looked to celebrate the fragmented and ephemeral qualities of Weston-s-Mare that are particularly evident in Big Lamp Corner.

It's this area of **oppositions** (fragmentation against coherence etc) where both pairs of ideas are still working towards a transformative outcome, that provides the basis for this project.

Visits to Location:

The start of the project will be led by Lyn Biddle and will involve visits to BLC to sketch and photograph this location.

Image Production:

Using digital or conventional cameras, each student is to produce a body of 8 photographs which, overall, will reflect the theme of the transformation of a place (it doesn't have to be Big Lamp Corner), but also respond to the idea of oppositions as described above.

A sequence of images or a set of paired images can be produced, and students could work in pairs, but each student needs to produce work that looks at both aspects of the oppositions e.g. focused versus fragmented, disparate versus coherence. In producing the images, you need to consider a number of points about the place you have selected e.g. light and shade, orientation, entry points, existing building shapes, volume of the space, significant features, and something of the history and usage.

Exhibition planning and materials for exhibition:

The eventual outcome of this project is to produce a body of work related to these themes for an exhibition that will be on display in a public location in Weston-super-Mare to coincide with the launch of Silica.

This exhibition will help to frame the project and needs to be considered from the very start. We need to identify a place that would provide an interesting but practical and accessible location for exhibiting the work and establish its viability with the owners and/or the Council.

The choice of venue will to some extent determine the physical aspects of the photographs, so working back from that point, there will be a negotiation about the number, size, and type of materials used for the finished photographs in order to create a coherent show. Further points that require consideration are the mounting and fixing of images, possibly in an outdoor setting.

A selection of each student's work will be made for the final exhibition.