




“I Object” Presentation

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Introducing the Exhibit and its Themes

The 'I Object' exhibition at the British Museum is all about bringing forward controversial objects in history to the public eye. 'Private Eye' editor Ian Hislop was invited to pick out objects from the museums collection that stood out as objects of protest, dissent, and satire; and these pieces were then put on display in the museum for the public to see and think about.



Two objects I found particularly interesting were the day of the dead figure of a factory owner, and the 'pussy' hat.

-Some of the issues represented by the paper mache figure are still very prominent today, which is why this caught my eye. For example, business owners live in extreme luxury while their workers struggle.

- The pussy hat is extremely interesting and personal to me. As a devout feminist, I'm always searching for ways to make women's voices heard, and this piece is a symbol of exactly that.



My Protest Theme: Gay Rights are Human Rights

After brainstorming different ideas and slogans, I came up with 'Gay rights are human rights'. As a bisexual female, I have experienced my fair share of misdemeanours, so I wanted to educate people and show that my community really does matter. All around the world, members of the LGBT+ community are denied basic human rights. The sole reason for this? They are different.

I believe that nobody should ever be afraid to be themselves, so I chose a strong protest theme to represent these strong people. People are afraid because they don't understand, and my intent was to educate and show that there's no reason to discriminate because we are just like everyone else.

Protest Themed Performances I Watched

In 2017, Lady Gaga performed her single 'Born This Way' at, arguably, one of America's most heterosexual events, the Super Bowl. This particular song contains some very controversial lyrics:

*No matter gay straight or bi, lesbian
transgendered life, I'm on the right track
baby I was born to survive.*

She wasn't afraid to speak her mind in front of the whole of America, which really inspired me and gave me a little more courage.



How We Built On Our Initial Ideas & Research To Create The Piece

In class we explored how our protest themes made us feel, and then tried to incorporate those feelings into our movements. For me, I came up with words like isolated, lonely, and confused. I used these words to create movements that showed that I was isolated etc.

We then put them together, and created a piece that make it seem like we were protesting, which was of course the overall intended effect. We wanted to show the audience that what we were performing was serious, and also give them something to really think about.

What We Did To Ensure Successful Impact In The BM Space

When performing, we were located right in the centre of the space, so as soon as anyone walked in their attention automatically went to us. We also entered from two different sides so that we could attract the audience's attention.

We also chose costumes we knew would stand out(my rainbow flag) in order to ensure that the audience watched us. As the space was very large, we also had to make sure our voices were loud enough to be heard.

Evaluating My Performance

Looking back at the videos, I believe that I exceeded my own expectations. Usually I don't feel that comfortable performing in public spaces, but our message was so strong it gave me that confidence to push past my fear.

I think that our use of placards really added to the performance because to the public, when we walked in it looked as if we were actually protesting, which was the whole point of our performance.

I'm extremely happy with our performance because I really feel like we got our message across, as a lady came up to us afterwards and complimented us on it. We wanted to inform and surprise, and I believe that we did.