

Unit 38 Mixed Media Image Making - Outcome Review

I started mocking up ideas of different collages I could create. I came upon the idea of creating collages with the idea of abandoned and derelict buildings. Over the past few years I explored different abandoned buildings and took photographs, so I already had plenty of primary source photographs all on my phone. I proceeded to sketch ideas of the collages, using the photographs I took as the starting block. I came up with the idea of putting in the objects into the image and have them coloured whereas the modern photograph, I took, would be black and white to possibly suggest how the past was much more lively and interesting compared to the present where everything is treated badly and even left alone. I used this idea in the final collage as I believe this created an interesting idea behind the collage itself and created a message for the viewer to understand easily. I feel like I achieved and succeeded this project as my final collage came out very well. The final collage I created made it look like the objects actually belonged in the image.

The first collage I created was to experiment with the abandoned swimming pool. I began with the photograph and made it black and white. I then added the sea into the swimming pool to make it as if the pool is filled. I then followed this up by adding people 'swimming' and 'playing' in the pool from images I collected in an 80s catalogue. I made them look like they were having fun and enjoying the pool despite the actual state of the swimming pool in the present. This is to show how the pool might've felt like when it was actually in use.

I then began my second collage which was of a burnt-down room I took in Bristol while exploring a rural building that had recently been through arson. I followed the same steps as the first swimming pool collage - this time making the room into a living room by adding appropriate furniture into the room. I noticed that on the left side, the room had a small cut out possibly for some kind-of chimney, I used this to add an image of small furnace but decided to replace it with tall cupboards as it felt out of place when stepping back and looking at the collage. I decided to add a few family members into the room to liven it up - once again using the 80s catalogue. I used a photograph of a father with his kids lying on the floor playing, which suited the theme of the living room. The final addition after the couch was the carpet. I decided to add it, to hide some of the debris from the fire on the floor and because lots of images of living rooms from the 80s catalogue contained some kind of carpet present so I thought that this would be a great addition. Overall this collage was a vast improvement from the first one as I was pleased with the outcome. The colour of the 80s objects fit very well and worked together - I was able to match all the colours within Photoshop option 'Match Colours' so that all the objects had a similar colour scheme. The black and white photograph for the setting worked very well and it made my eyes be drawn to the coloured objects which filled the room.

My final, third collage, is my favourite by-far. Using the same steps as the first and second collage I was able to achieve the look of another living room. This time each object worked very well together and it really looked like it was the same room but photos taken at different times.

I believe these collages are very effective in creating the message I began with and are seen within the finished artworks. The use of space and colour really worked for all - especially the two living rooms as the viewer is drawn to the colour rather than the dull black and white present photo. The design, I believe, is very effective as it's something that is quite simple but contains a deeper message behind the work for the viewer to think of. If I were able to work on these collages more, I would've wanted to add even more life into them with even more objects and items all around the room to further promote the idea of people really living in these places. However, overall I am very happy with my final outcome of the project.