



**Student's Name: Charlotte Bowker**

**Date: 21/05/2021**

**Titles of Activities: Rights for Flies – Thorsby Street**

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## **Record**

Walking into the exhibition room, initial thoughts were fear. Hearing noises and not fully understanding where they are coming from is quite a daunting experience at first. But by walking round the piece and understanding the mechanics of how everything worked, the piece became less daunting and more of an intricate masterpiece. I personally feel that creating a space and installing an atmosphere for someone to make them feel a certain way is not only difficult, but when it works it can completely transform how someone is feeling both physically and mentally. Hanging on the ceiling just inside the door was what felt and looked like cling film that had been carefully connected to imitate spider webs. The curved shape enhanced the entrance to the exhibition and lead you onwards towards more hanging fabric and an amazing display of lights, projections, and music. Once the feeling of fear and the unknown passed, I quite weirdly felt quite comfortable. I was more amazed by my surroundings than scared and I didn't want to leave. Whether that was because my mental state enjoyed the space or there was just so much depth to the piece I do not know, but I do know that I didn't want to leave. The fabrics were stretched over the entire space, consisting of black netting both fine and thick, cling film on the floor and ceiling covering a fan which created ripples under the cling film, and a projection screen displaying distorted footage that matched and flowed the music. At the back of the room, was a large piece of materials with the name of the artists group 'RIGHTS FOR FLIES' written in black paint. I took the time to judge each section individually, but it was only when I stood in the doorway and experienced it as a whole piece where I felt comfortable and quite overwhelmed with how my feelings were changed when I took it all in together.

## **Reflect**

To reflect upon the experience, I am incredibly interested in the idea of creating a space and an atmosphere that could completely changed and effect how someone is feeling. It greatly reminded me of a piece currently being shown in the Bonington Gallery at the moment which made me feel very uncomfortable. The fact that it covers the entire space, and I felt as if I had been put in an abandoned construction site with screaming and some of the most haunting noises. The reasoning behind this comparison is that both pieces are an entire space which change the way you feel as soon as you walk into them. There is so much going on including the noises, the music, the materials, the projections and the props that the feeling you get when you first walk in is a real and raw expression of how this space makes you think and experience your emotions. Another part of the display in Bonington Gallery, was a desk display of someone's office, and parallel to this desk was a screen playing footage of someone sat rather peculiarly in the chair behind the desk doing multiple weird interactions. To turn around from this screen and see the space in which that person was sitting, made me felt so uncomfortable and rather freaked out. I got this same feeling within the Rights of Flies piece accept my feelings being within this space was positive and honestly made me feel relaxed and comfortable.

One of my favourite design aspects of this piece was walking into the room behind this thick black mesh material that was hanging diagonally from the ceiling and turning around to pier through towards the light in the top left corner of the room. There was an array of lights that were quite

beautiful and were then displayed on the rest of the piece to create an effect reminding of an oil spill, rather unexpectedly beautiful.



When taking a step back towards the door frame and looking back on the whole room as one final piece, I noticed the atmosphere having quite a quick change every couple of seconds due to the projector material. The room went from being surrounded in red quite distressing blotches of colour, to then suddenly changing to a light and airy blue space. This effect was only noticeable when looking at the room from afar as being too close distorts how you view the video footage on the projector screen. But having walked into this space and judged it and felt a certain way, to then going to leave but viewing the piece in an entire new light is not only something hard to achieve, but it was quite revealing in regards to how many layers this space of mixed material really had to it.



After viewing this piece, I had a chat with the artist invigilating this piece, and I found out that this was a stage piece that was going towards a portfolio for space design for events. This was interesting to learn and confirmed how I initially felt about the room. Walking in, I felt transformed with the mixed material and music media. I can not only see this piece of work bigger in a whole space, but I think it could be life changing for companies to hire such work to enhance their spaces. How an event is stylized to make people feel, is the decider of whether or not an event will be successful or not, and for me, an event styled like this could be incredibly popular, successful and quite amazing.