

Student review: Nothing Bad Will Happen

By Steve Brown and Grace Wagstaff - Posted 20.10.16



'Nothing Bad Will Happen', a review by BA (Hons) Fine Art students Steve Brown and Grace Wagstaff.

The Plymouth Art Weekender is a great opportunity for artists across Plymouth to display their work, connect with other artists and enjoy the culture Plymouth has to offer.

We, the third year BA Fine Art Students at Plymouth College of Art, received the opportunity to be a part of this fantastic event, curating 'Nothing Bad Will Happen' a diverse and challenging exhibition, in our Regent Street studio.

The show contained a great variety of work, and over two and a half days there were almost 200 visitors including students, alumni, friends, members of the public and representatives from Exeter Phoenix, SpaceX, and KARST.



Vintage photographic negatives by Louise Riou-Djukic, BA (Hons) Fine Art.

Fellow student, [Vesislava Zheleva](#) took on the task of curating and organising the exhibition. The brief was broad with suggestions that the material should reflect a side of student work away from the studio, or aim to provide an insight to the influence of Fine Art study on student practice.

We discussed everyone's work then walked around the studio to decide where every piece should go, taking factors like light and size into consideration. As our fourth group show, that we have organised together, it makes the whole process a lot smoother.

"We did a great job and everyone's work was amazing!" — Grace Wagstaff

Visitors entering the building first encountered a moving set of photographs by Sasha Reeve of her parents united in the face of health issues. Alongside, there were some beautifully detailed drawings of facial elements by Grace Wagstaff.

On the other side of the foyer, an e-book by Vesislava showed appropriated and transliterated short texts in Bulgarian.



Work by Angela Hilton, BA (Hons) Fine Art

Finally, two pieces by Angela Hilton presented used contact lenses in an extraordinary string from ceiling to floor and mounted on etymological pins at eye level.

In the corridor, there were manipulated photographs by Vesislava and a triptych of photos of her mother looking beatific, with halos applied by hand.

The triangle room had commissioned monochrome paintings of celebrities by Bethany Smiles along one side and, along the other, two pictures by Rebecca Williams reflecting fluctuating moods of optimism, anxiety and depression.



Beautiful drawings focusing on facial elements by Grace Wagstaff, BA (Hons) Fine Art

Against the far wall, Louise Riou-Djukic showed vintage photographic negatives, photographs and other artefacts – a departure from her usual performance practice.

In the centre of the room, resplendent on its plinth, was Steve Brown's stuffed rat with heterochromatic eyes – a tribute to David Bowie.

Outside, in the studio corridor, Steve's political posters contrasted work done four years ago with work completed this summer.



*Steve
Brown's
tribute to
David
Bowie.*

The exhibition finally peaked with Sam Turner's 'roller coaster' construction, made from found containers and zip ties, which completely filled the last room.

Although this was organised by the students, we couldn't have done it without our wonderful technician Martin France and our course leaders Steven Paige and Jenny Keane, without them 'Nothing Bad Will Happen' wouldn't have happened.

And of course big thanks to Vesislava who did the majority of the organising, including getting the booklets printed, designing the poster, and liaising with staff.

And to the rest of the third year students for giving up their time to be a part of the show, we did a great job and everyone's work was amazing!

To find out more about each artist, check out their exhibition catalogue → [here](#). Follow Steve's work on his [blog](#) and discover Grace's work on her [website](#).

Photos by Vesislava Zheleva.

Source: <https://www.plymouthart.ac.uk/blog/student-review-nothing-bad-will-happen>