

Drawn from the city: Summative assessment-Joel McEwen (s2093542)

WORKING WITH A FOUND OBJECT

THE HIDDEN FLASK

At the start of this project, I found it difficult on how I could convey my idea and how I could explain would my idea is and what it is trying to show.



I was focusing on how quarantine has affected everyone, especially those who go to the pub or do social drinking regularly. Before people, especially younger people, would drink through a flask to hide the fact that they're drinking alcohol due to them being underage or not wanting others to know that they're day-drinking. This can also happen in the workplace, when colleagues would take out their flasks, with caution, while on the lookout that no one is looking in their direction and pouring it in their coffee or beverage. Usually the flask would contain gin, vodka, or even whiskey. Personally, the idea of mixing alcohol and coffee sounds sickening, but if they like it then I can't judge.

WORKING WITH A FOUND OBJECT

I had a slow start on my first project, working with a found object, but I gained my footing after I had had a conversation with my dad about the increase in suicides and deaths throughout quarantine and lockdown, due to some people being unable to leave their house and go to their local pub, they feel isolated and restricted from their lives so some may drink in secret from their families or friends to hide away from their anxiety. This inspired me to do my project on this topic because, coincidentally, I had brought my flask with me from London, so it related to 'working with a found object'. The feeling of being isolated is possibly the worst feeling I ever felt, I felt like I was being suffocated and was

unable to scream for help, I, however, luckily did not resort to 'drown my sorrows' but instead stayed in my room and watched anime and read manga and did some artwork from time to time. The chain around the flask signifies that suffocation that I and most people felt, and the fake blood represents all the deaths that occurred from drinking alcohol.



This piece is meant to depict the fatalities of drinking excessively and the deaths during quarantine that weren't just due to the virus, Covid-19. During lockdown, in London, there was a massive increase in people whose mental health had deteriorated due to the stress and anxiety of not just out of fear of this unknown virus, to which there is still no cure, but also out of fear for their jobs. Many people lost their jobs and businesses, due to them being liquidated to pay off the debts owed. The first wave of liquidation caused a wave of fear instilled into the public, fearing that they too will lose their jobs or businesses. This would have caused a large strain on everyone's mental health.

THE HIDDEN FLASK



Pencil drawing of a flask with a handprint painted with red acrylic ink, which signifies blood.

Constricting Chain



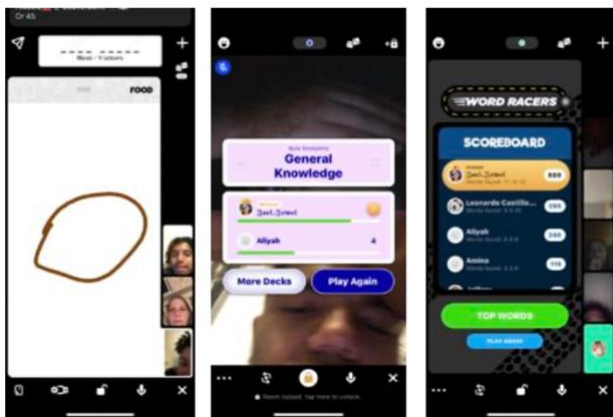
MAKING AND BREAKING NARRATIVE INTRODUCTION

For this project I chose to base it around Houseparty, which is an app which allows you to video call of up to 8 people. I decided to choose this as my base for this project because during lockdown I would use this app many times to talk to many of my friends.

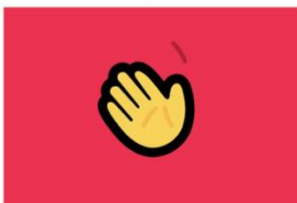


During the beginning of lockdown, we had all agreed to use this app to communicate with each other because it was simple and easy to use (and most importantly free!). The app allowed us to stay connected and stay sane because for some people they can't cope with just being locked in a house with their family, as much as they love them, sometimes they just need some privacy from their family to speak or socialise (virtually) and for the majority just some alone time, time to be away from everyone and everything so they could just be with their own thoughts. For example, at home I'm the man of the house because my dad left and started another family, but I still see him and have fun with him, and being the only male can be tough, especially when you're the one who has to stop the arguments from escalating. That's why it was good for me to talk to my friends every day for some time because I could talk to them about certain things I could no talk about with my family.

Houseparty was launched in 2015 but at the time it was called Meerkat, and it was officially called Houseparty in 2016. Houseparty is a social media app which is unlike the regular app, such as; Facebook, Instagram, etc. the app is designed so that you can't socialise with strangers and the only way you can talk to others is by directly adding them through their username. If you're about to join your friends 'house' ('house' is when you're on call with others or 'room') and they're on a call with someone you don't know then the app will alert



Houseparty not only has the feature of allowing you to video call people, it also has games you can play as a bonus feature, me and friends would always play word racers (the middle image) and compete on who could get the most points, as you can see I won in this image. You could also play Pictionary, Trivia, etc. Recently they added karaoke, I tried it out once but never went in it again because the individual voices are out of sync and some people are louder than others, but the main reason is because I have a voice of a dying dog when I sing in front of others because I become so shy.



MAKING AND BREAKING NARRATIVE

For this project I wanted to show how lockdown had affected me and my friends. Due to us not being able to physically see each other, we had to come up with alternatives so we could all to talk to each other. And that's when we started using Houseparty which is a social media app which allows you to video call up to 8 people. However, we still felt really upset and bored because we couldn't go out with each other and have fun.

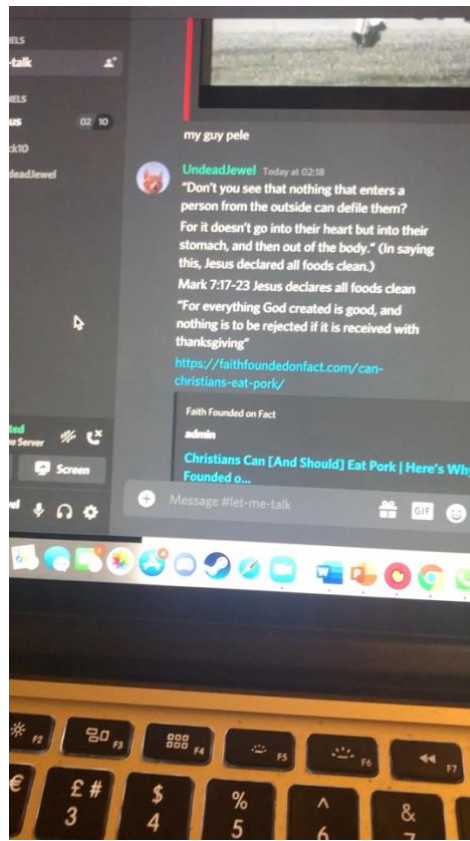
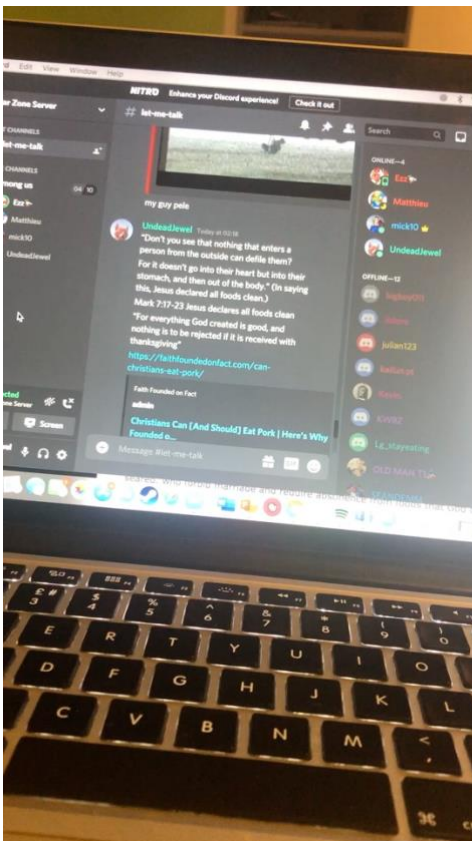
Even now, with all the restrictions, some of still feel the same because even though we can go out, there isn't much we can do, and we can only meet up with up to six people. It's more stressful on those who have gone to university because for some us, especially me who is very shy, we are unable or find it difficult to make new friends especially for those of us who left London.

My friends and I debating about the election in America. (Discord)

Making my friends jealous because I'm eating Byron and they had to make food. (Houseparty)



I still use Houseparty from time to time to talk to my friends from college, but more recently I have been using Discord, which is also a social media platform used to talk to people but it is mostly used for people to connect on who are playing a game so they can communicate while they playing the game. I've been using it to talk with my old friends from secondary school while we play a game that has been trending recently, Among Us and to just talk about random topics with my friends.



My friends and I debating whether it is ok to eat pig/pork as we are Christians. (Discord)



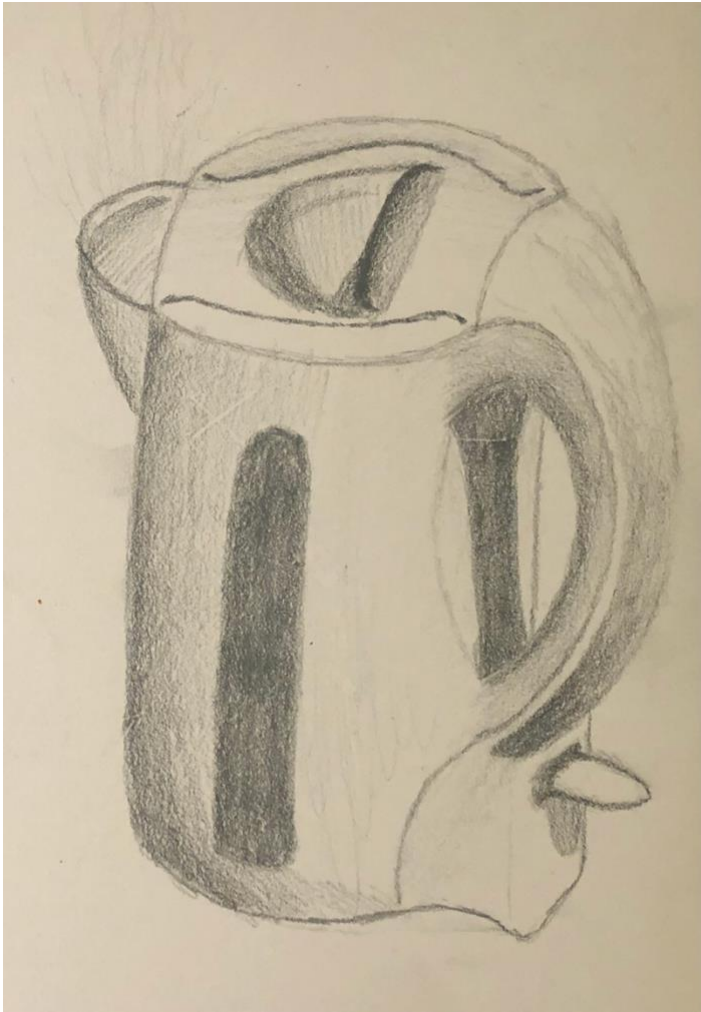
Wishing happy birthday to my friend, and her opening a gift I got her because I was unable to be there to see her open it.
(Houseparty)

Soundscape

For this project I had to go outside and record my surroundings on a WhatsApp group chat that included the everyone doing 'Drawn from the city'.

I went about doing this project by taking a video of sounds in my kitchen and extracting the sound on an app called Inshot. I drew the objects that emitted the sound I recorded and made a video using the drawings and having the sound in the background to make you visualise the drawings actually making the sound themselves.





A4 pencil drawing of a kettle boiling



A4 pencil drawing of a cup of tea being stirred



A4 pencil drawing of a shower head on