



Ben Faircloth

CASW STUDENT AWARD SUBMISSION

IN MY ROOM /
ON THE BEACH

Ben Faircloth



ARTIST STATEMENT

I am painter, animator and filmmaker in Machynlleth, Wales. My work explores absurdity, isolation and anxiety, whilst being rooted in my immediate community and accompanying social issues. A sense of place providing affection, humor and ultimately levity to the, at times, dark subject matter.

My current run of work is focused on the clichéd, but still evocative act of returning to your hometown after a long absence.





Brief Comments

A cornerstone of the work I have been developing , is animation transitioning into painting and vice versa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kr4-JSyeobE>

Title

Jetty Ghouls

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

A painting from the image left after making an animation.

An exchange of very bad ideas between half formed teenage minds.

Title

Jetty ghouls

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

One of three animations to be shown as a triptych and move in and out of sync with each other. This creates a constantly changing triptych.

The Work is titled *In my room* and is Aberystwyth beach based/themed work, which contemplated the delights playing out behind all those sets of curtains on seafront accommodation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcJtCb2Z48>

Title

In my room 1

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

In my room is set during the era of moving into my first flat and experiencing the dubious pleasures which such things have to offer, largely nudity and bad mental health. The composition of this work was inspired by the animations of Nathalie Djurberg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNMQJ57IFg>

Title

In my room 2

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

An ongoing theme in my work (very much David Lynch inspired) is the ugliness and oddity lying behind closed doors in small towns.

There is something of the picture postcard maybe. Aberystwyth is considered one of the nicest, safest places about, but I have seen things there that would make Gotham city blush. Sleazy postcards?

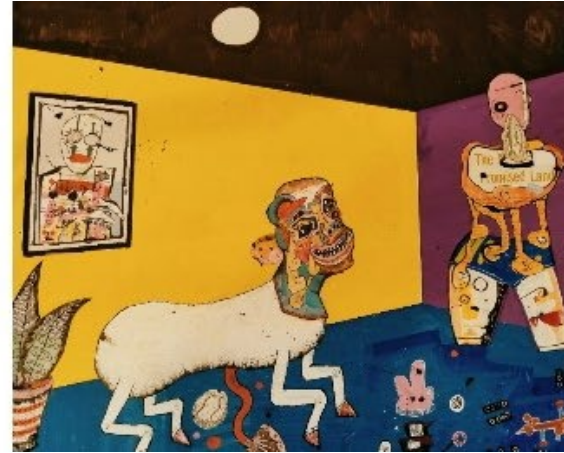
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iDpL3Anv2U>

Title

In my room 3

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

A triptych of paintings, some using animation boards as a foundation. All three are scenes inspired by my first bedsit on Aberystwyth seafront.

Title

In my room

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

Triptych 3 x 86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Depicting the mental and physical reactions and interactions of three people wasting their summer days away indoors. This is very much about then wonder/horror having a place of my own for the first time.

Title

Three goblins (In my room)

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Continuing the theme of *Three Goblins*, *Pets* depicts the ever presence of people hanging out in my room, of waking up and finding them on my floor. As an adult, this would be unbearable but I liked it at the time.

Title

Pets (In my room)

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Death in the afternoon uses an evisceration theme previously mentioned and again focuses on the unknowing horror of its central Figure. This became a self-portrait of sorts as it progressed and depicts teenage naivety and unseen but inevitable disaster.

Title

Death in the afternoon (In my room)

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

An example of a projected animated triptych.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1CFJgi7wck>

Title

In my room

Medium and Support

Stop-motion animation
(projection)

Dimensions



Brief Comments

An earlier MA animation, which defined many of my animations going forward.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTx4zeolGvE>

Title

The bull

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

Based on some Aberystwyth history: Djemba the elephant. Djemba turned up in town with a circus in 1911. Accounts vary about the creature's fate (and name). By being struck by a train or poisoned from a toxic water hole, Djemba didn't get out of town alive.

Title

Djemba

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Another Djemba themed painting. Old friends who also never get out of town.

Title

Djemba 2

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

I made a series of paintings, collectively called *On the beach*. Much of my teenage years was spent on the beach in Aberystwyth, and it feels like many of my ideas trace back to the place and time.

Title

On the beach 1

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Another beach scene.

Title

On the beach 2

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Another beach scene inspired by watching a family rock pooling. They handed their kids creatures from the pools and let them smash them to pieces. Another small, but grim postcard.

Title

On the beach 3

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Rock pool family again.

Title

On the beach 4

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

This piece is kind of a conclusion to the work I have made this year. A departure from the grinding negativity and horror. The idea being that if you stop living like a pig/cockroach hybrid, you get to go swimming with Scandinavian girlfriends and live happily ever after. The lumpen, grotesque head remains as a reminder that you can always relapse.

Title

The rewards of clean living

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

86cm x 60cm

Preparatory works and sketchbooks

DEVELOPMENT





Brief Comments

Early MA animation. The frame rate is slowed down and has a sinister effect I think. Also, my remote shutter broke and I had to use touch screen on my phone, creating a juddery effect which I like and will try to replicate. This work is heavily influenced by Nathalie Djurberg.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kbwQYqX4p0>

Title

Untitled

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

I felt there was something a bit flat about my previous animation style. I shifted into a more defined 3D room and found the work more satisfying. This piece in particular was a visual direction I chose follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDTTW9CWeC4>

Title

Untitled

Medium and Support

Stop motion animation



Brief Comments

This was the first painting on a used animation board. This experiment led to the technique and style I use in much of my current work.

Title

Home-town ghouls

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

84cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

My style of work, early on in MA.

Title

Untitled

Medium and Support

Mixed media collage

Dimensions

130cm x 60cm



Brief Comments

Early sketchbook work

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXtXrHWkHJO>

Title
Sketch book 1