

Exploring the Effect of Inequality-themed Artworks on Creative Students' Learning of Analysis

RAISE 2026

**Sidney Hope, Academic Support Lecturer,
University of the Arts London (they/them)**

What I delivered

I designed and co-delivered: 7 taught Academic Support workshops in 2024 and 2025 with BA, Graduate Diploma and MA Fine Art courses that use interactions with inequality-themed artworks to support students' learning of analysis.

The sessions followed a successful Micro Teaching activity delivered as part of my PgCert.



Outcome from Micro Teaching session, 9 February 2024

What happened in the workshops: Introduction – What is analysis and reflection?

I first asked students to write down definitions of analysis and reflection on Post-it notes. Students shared their definitions with the group then I showed dictionary definitions of both.

Define analysis and reflection:

On post-it notes, can you write down some definitions of analysis and reflection, decide between two of you which is your preferred one?

What happened in the workshops – Part One

Artwork 1: Lubaina Himid, *Negative Positives*, 2007-2017

Students were first asked to analyse the effects of one of the two artworks by Lubaina Himid in groups.

Then, after reading a statement from Himid about the work, and a definition of unconscious bias, they were asked to discuss how Himid analyses the unconscious bias that she suggests is in the Guardian's layout.



Lubaina Himid, *Negative Positives*, 2007-2017

Handout for the students with quotes and space for writing

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks

Lubaina Himid source:

1.

'The idea was to highlight those pages on which the image presented was undermined or contradicted by the text on the same page; it was a way of using a small painting of either a pattern or an object to both draw attention to what was an everyday throwaway object (the page) while giving the photograph of the person some kind of support in a way that the text had clearly failed to do...The text, even seven years later, consistently undermines their achievements by implying that they succeed through violence, cheating or theft.'

Lubaina Himid in Bernier, C-M, Rice, A., Himid, L., and Durkin, H. (2019) *Inside the Invisible: Memorialising Slavery and Freedom in the Life and Works of Lubaina Himid*. Liverpool University Press, p. 244.

'Unconscious bias is when we make judgments or decisions on the basis of our prior experience, our own personal deep-seated thought patterns, assumptions or interpretations, and we are not aware that we are doing it.' <https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/publications/2015/unconscious-bias-briefing-2015.pdf>

Félix González-Torres source:

2.

'In the early 1990s, with controversies surrounding homosexuality and the AIDS crisis simultaneously wreaking havoc across the gay community, the bed also represented a site of conflict, symbolizing both love and death. That Gonzalez-Torres's partner, Ross, died of AIDS in 1991 brings an intensely personal note to this work, but does not diminish it of its universal associations with comfort, intimacy, loneliness, or loss.'

https://www.moma.org/explore/inside_out/2012/04/04/printout-felix-gonzalez-torres/

Martha Rosler source:

3.

'The pictures were taken by Rosler along the Bowery, a famous street in the lower part of Manhattan. The neighbourhood had for decades been widely identified with alcoholism and transiency, but also for lofts rented by artists, as well as clubs and small theaters. The typewritten words refer to intoxicated states and intoxicated people and are taken from journals kept by Rosler in 1974 prior to making the work. But the words neither describe the photographs (as the rigorous serial pairings might seem to suggest) nor, conversely, do the photographs offer any illustrative explanation of the texts.' <https://www.martharosler.net/the-bowery-in-two-inadequate-descriptive-systems>

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part One (Making activity 1)

(2024)

I handed out double-page spreads of the Guardian and asked student groups to: 'redact the page to both remove parts of the design and what is said as well as highlight what is left.'

12

News

Headline

Israel must prove it does not have Gaza starvation policy, says US

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

The US has no proof on the ground that Israel has a policy of starvation in Gaza, says a senior US official. The official, who is a member of the US-Israeli Joint Military Commission, said that the US has no evidence that Israel is deliberately starving the people of Gaza. He said that the US has no evidence that Israel is deliberately starving the people of Gaza. He said that the US has no evidence that Israel is deliberately starving the people of Gaza.

13

News

Headline

Fire engulfed everything' Family describe seeing mother and son burned alive

Jason Huxley
International security correspondent

The brother of a teenage Palestinian computing student who burned to death in a blaze sparked by an Israeli strike on a Gaza hospital compound has described how he tried to save his injured brother. The brother, who was being treated for an injury, lying on his back on a bed, frantically waving his arms before being engulfed by the blaze. The images, which have been viewed by millions around the world since the attack on Monday, prompted new outrage at a time when Israel faces acute pressure from allies about its conduct of the war in Gaza.

14

News

Headline

England's 36-man squad

Jack van der Meer
Football writer

England's 36-man squad for the T20 World Cup has been announced. The squad includes players from various international teams, including the West Indies, South Africa, and Australia. The squad is led by captain Jos Buttler and includes several key players from the domestic circuit.

15

News

Headline

Israel has said food and other essentials will not be cut off. We will be watching

Linda Thomas-Greenfield
US ambassador to the UN

Israel has said that it will not cut off food and other essentials to the people of Gaza. However, the US is closely monitoring the situation and will take action if necessary. The US is concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and is working to ensure that the people of Gaza have access to the food and other essentials they need.

16

News

Headline

England need wins after exits cast shadow of uncertainty

Gerard Meagher
Football writer

England need to win their next few matches to avoid being relegated. The team has been struggling in the league and has lost several matches in a row. The manager has said that the team is not in the best of form and that they need to win their next few matches to get back on track.

17

News

Headline

Bornick bullish over Morrow amid coaching upheaval

Gerard Meagher
Football writer

Steve Bornick is confident of adding Phil Morrow to his coaching staff at the end of the season. Bornick has been in charge of the team since the start of the season and has been successful in leading the team to several victories. He is confident that Morrow will be a valuable addition to his coaching staff.

Outcome from taught session 2024

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part One (Making activity 1) (2024)



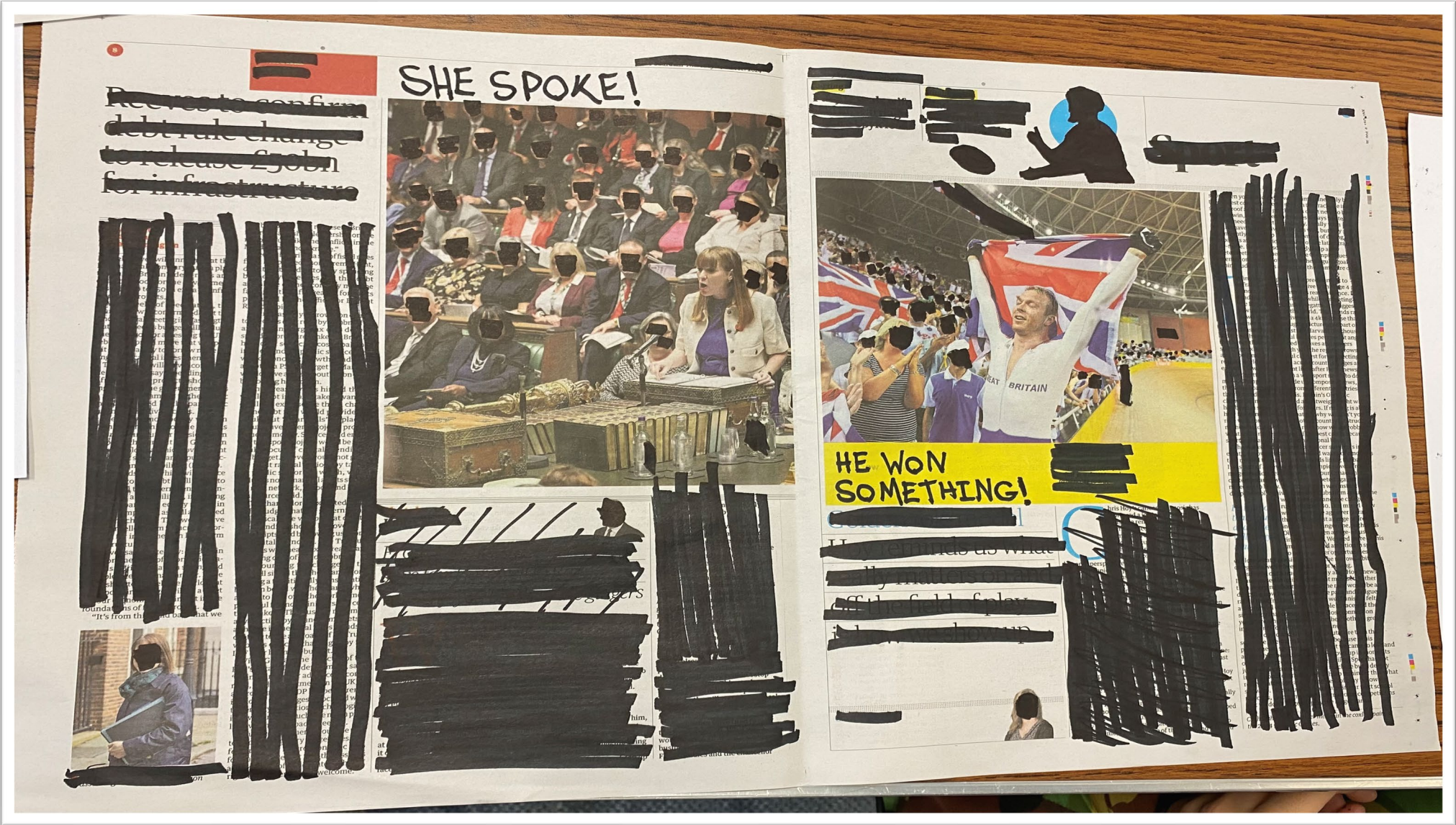
Outcome from taught session 2024

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part One (Making activity 1) (2024)



Outcome from taught session 2024

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part One (Making activity 1) (2024)



Outcome from taught session 2024

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks

Part One (Making activity 1) (2025)

Outcome from taught session 2025

Friday 31 October 2025 The Guardian

National

Nearly 150,000 people aged 90 and above wait more than 12 hours in A&E each year

Andrew Gregory
Health editor

More than 150,000 people aged 90 and over are forced to wait longer than 12 hours in A&E every year, with some experiencing "truly shocking" waits of several days stuck in corridors, a British Medical Association spokesman said.

Elderly people are also being left in their own excrement and wet beds for hours, denied pain relief and forced to watch and hear other patients die to them because they end up waiting so long for care, according to Age UK.

More than 1 million patients aged 90 and over had to wait longer than 12 hours in three (33%) aged 90 or over in 2024-25.

Caroline Abrahams, chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said: "What is happening to some very ill old people when they come to A&E is a crisis hiding in plain sight which the government must face up to and take immediate action to resolve."

"No one should have to spend their final days in a hospital corridor where it's impossible for the staff to provide good, compassionate care, and it's truly shocking that this is what is happening to some very old people in some hospitals, today and every day," she said.

The report detailed how one of the most common reasons for elderly people being left in A&E was a lack of beds in care homes.

As a result, we fear that poor quality care in and around some A&E departments is now almost expected - a truly dire situation.

"devastating" "a moral stain" "No elderly or vulnerable person should be forced to endure these conditions." "It is unsafe, undignified, and unacceptable."

"heartbreaking"

"lost"

"queues of stretchers and people suffering"

"hundreds of times"

33%
Proportion of those aged 90 or over forced to wait more than 12 hours in A&E in England in 2024-25

"The final straw"

Most westerly shop on British mainland shuts after 50 years

Libby Brooks
Scotland correspondent

Morag Doherty says the men in the village will have to get their newspapers elsewhere now.

Today Doherty, 66, will close the doors of the Ferry Stores in Kilchoan, on the remote Ardnamurchan peninsula in the Highlands, for the final time.

Doherty has worked in the most westerly shop on the British mainland since she was a child, running it with her husband, David, 68, for the past seven years.

But changing shopping habits, the slow erosion of footfall and the advent of home delivery have taken their toll. "The final straw was when Morrisons started home deliveries - sometimes three times a day," she said. "That killed us."

As the only shop for 20 miles around, the Ferry Stores provided an essential community hub for the 200 inhabitants of the windswept coastal village for more than half a century.

Keeping the shop well-stocked was a challenge, demanding an eight-hour round trip - including at least one ferry crossing and a drive on a twisting single-track road - to ensure that customers' requirements were met.

"I worked in it as a child, my sons did too, so it is very emotional to close it - it is a shame and very sad," said Doherty. "It is the end of an era. But it is not just us. Other rural shops are facing the same problems. You can't compete with home delivery and online."

Brendan O'Hara, the Scottish National party MP for Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber, said the loss of shops like this one was a blow to people living in remote areas. "It strikes at the very heart of rural community life because without access to a shop, fuel and postal services, communities cannot remain sustainable and such a loss will inevitably further accelerate the depopulation crisis threatening our remote areas," he said.

The nearest filling station is now in Strontian, 29 miles away, while the next post office is 22 miles away in Acharacle.

In a heartfelt statement to customers, the couple said they had struggled with the decision to close the shop. "Over the past several years we have seen a steady decline in footfall as shopping habits have changed, particularly with the rise of online and home delivery services. While we have done our best to adapt and keep the shop running for the benefit of our community, it has become increasingly difficult to sustain the business," they said.

"After much thought, we have decided that now is the right time to bring this chapter to a close and step into retirement. We take comfort in knowing that we've served this village for seven years and have been part of its life and history."

Photographs: PETER KILLY/NORTHPIX; RICHARD NEWTON/ALAMY

Lily Allen to perform new album in full at UK shows

Laura Snapes
Deputy music editor

Lily Allen will play her headline-grabbing new album, *West End Girl*, in full on a run of tour dates next year.

The British pop star will perform her fifth album front to back in theatrical venues around the UK in March.

West End Girl appears to tell Allen's story of the dissolution of her marriage to the *Stranger Things* actor David Harbour in chronological order, from Allen accepting an open relationship against her wishes to finding that the agreed terms had been flouted.

However, Allen told *British Vogue* that although the album was inspired by her marriage, "that's not to say it's all gospel".

The couple are believed to have split up at the end of 2024.

The album, released a week ago, has received widespread acclaim, including a five-star review from the *Independent* and four stars from the *Guardian's* Alexis Petridis, who praised its "boldness and the quality of its songwriting".

Tickets for the concerts go on sale at 10am on 7 November.

▲ Lily Allen will be on tour in March, singing all the songs on *West End Girl*

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part One (Making activity 1) (2025)

After the activity, images were uploaded to a Padlet on a screen then students reflected on and analysed their decisions.

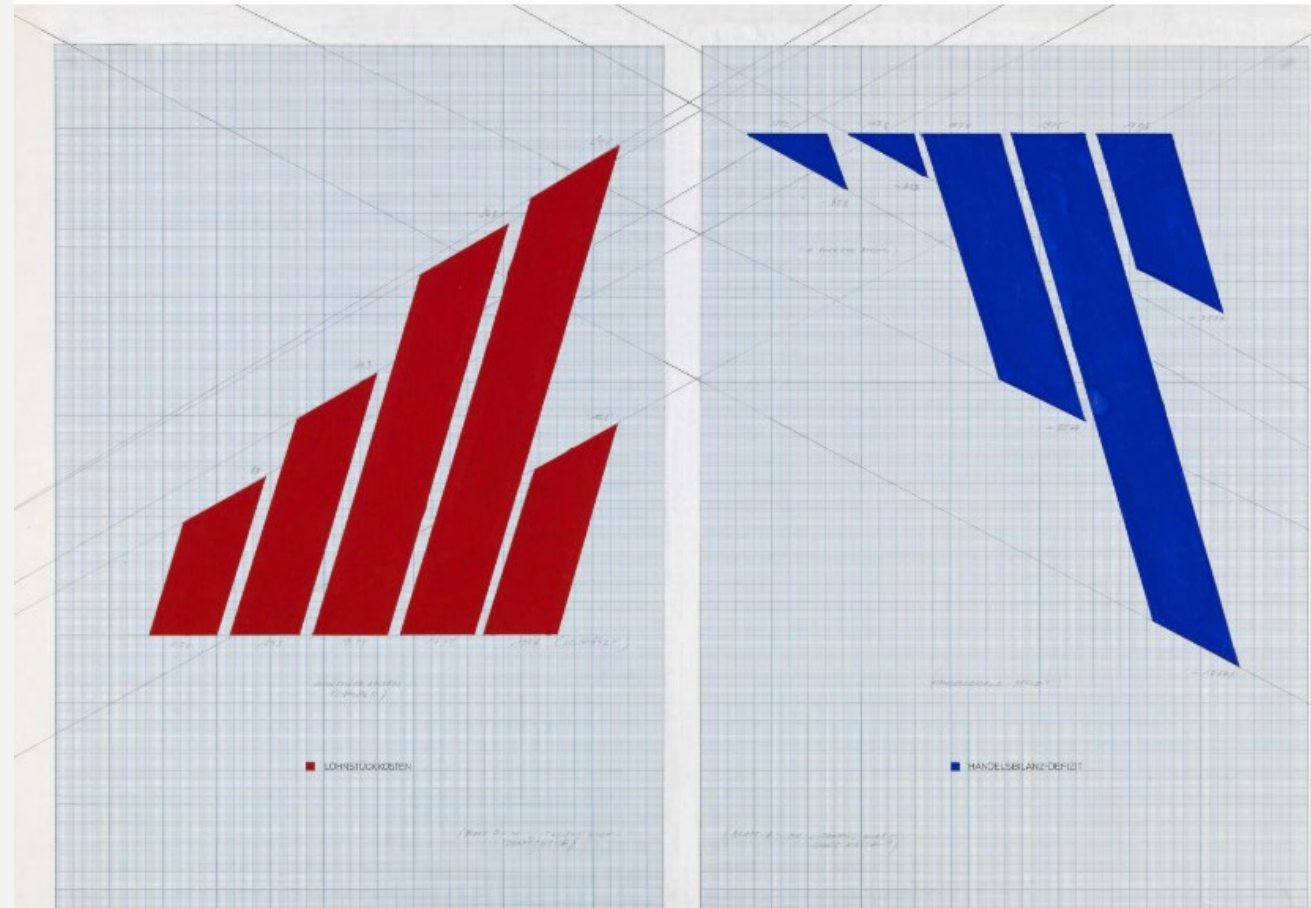


Outcome from taught session 2024

K. P. Brehmer's artwork – influence for data presentation



K. P. Brehmer, *Soul and Feelings of a Worker*
(*Whitechapel version*), 1978



K. P. Brehmer, *Unit Labour Costs Trade Balance-Deficit*, 1977

[illegible]

Data
categorising
students'
responses to
the invitation
to 'redact the
page to both
remove parts
of the design
and what is
said as well
as highlight
what is left.
2025
workshops'

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cancelling out parts of images										
Cancelling out parts of adverts										
Cancelling out parts of articles										
Cancelling out images										
Cancelling out adverts										
Cancelling out whole articles										

What happened in the workshops – Part Two

Artwork 2: Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1991

Without being given additional information about the artwork, students were asked, what does this image raise for you?
Discuss in pairs.

Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1991, Third Avenue and East 137th Street, Bronx, New York. 1 of 24 outdoor billboard locations throughout the New York City area, with 1 indoor location, as part of the exhibition *Projects 34: Felix Gonzalez-Torres*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1992



Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1991

What happened in the workshops – Part Two

Artwork 2: Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1991

After reading a text about the artwork, students were asked - given this author's definition of the artwork, how does it affect your perspective on the image?

The artwork responded to the HIV/AIDS crisis, Ross González-Torres' partner had died of AIDS in 1991.

Félix González-Torres, *Untitled*, 1991, Third Avenue and East 137th Street, Bronx, New York.



Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part Two (Making activity 2)

Student results (2024)



I invited the students (alone or in groups) to either leave the room and find, or look on their phone for, an image that can discuss something that matters to them.



Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part Two (Making activity 2) 'something that matters to you.' Student results (2024)



Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part Two (Making activity 2) 'something that matters to you.' Student results (2024)



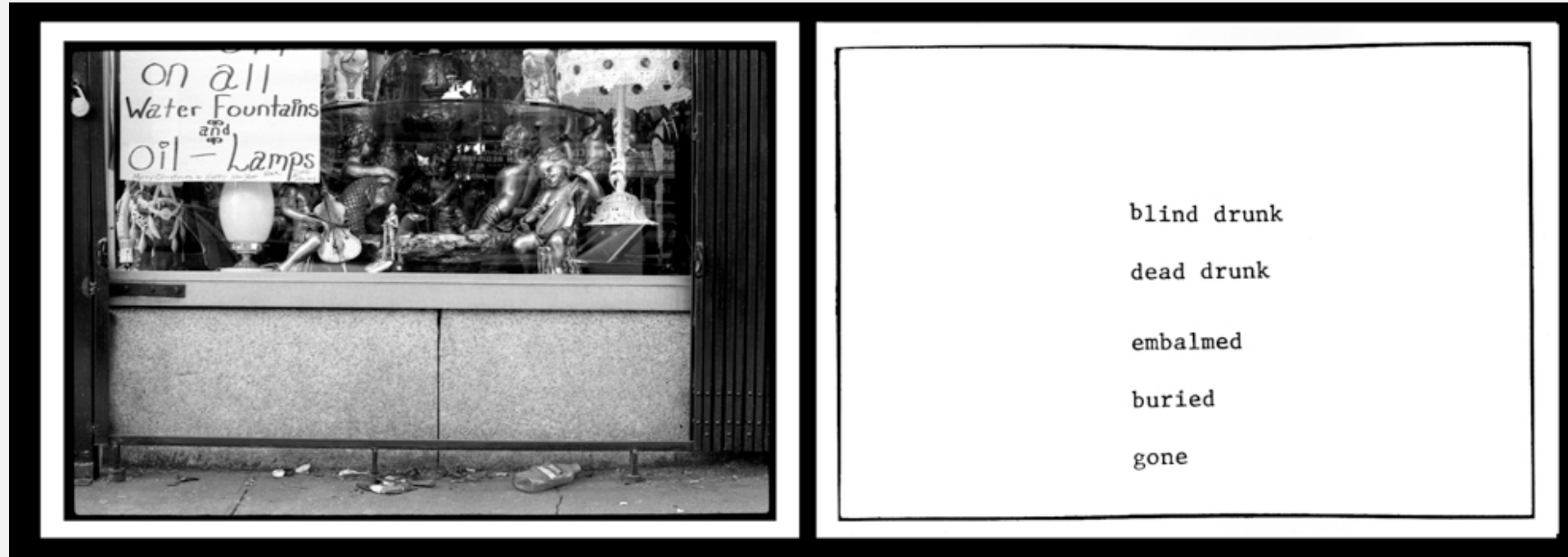
Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part Two (Making activity 2) 'something that matters to you.' Student results (2025)



After the activity, images were uploaded to a Padlet on a screen then students reflected on and analysed their decisions.

What happened in the workshops – Part Three - Artwork 3: Martha Rosler, *The Bowery in two inadequate descriptive systems*, 1974–75

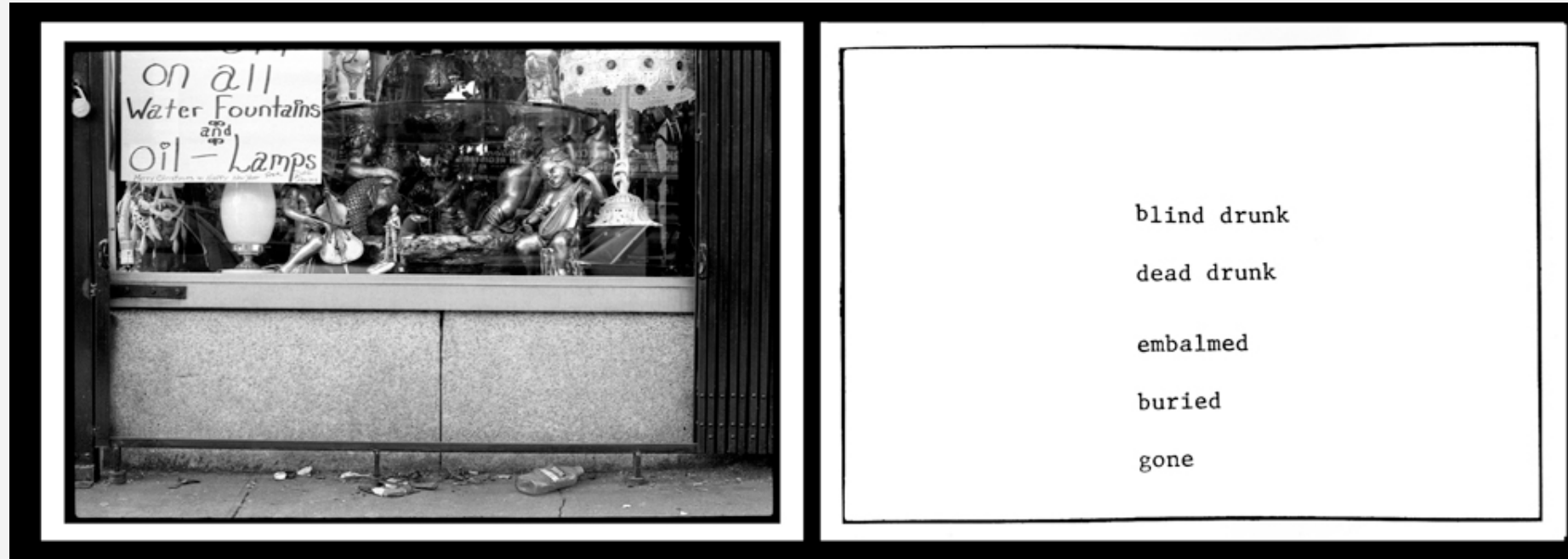
Invited to pick one of two panels of the artwork, student groups were asked, describe what you think is happening in the artwork – what has the artist done, what is the effect of their actions on the subject they are treating?



Martha Rosler, *The Bowery in two inadequate descriptive systems*, 1974–75

What happened in the workshops – Part Three - Artwork 3: Martha Rosler, *The Bowery in two inadequate descriptive systems*, 1974–75

Student groups were asked to read and discuss what has been said about this artwork by the artist on the handout. How can you analyse and reflect on this artwork?



Martha Rosler, *The Bowery in two inadequate descriptive systems*, 1974–75

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part 3 (Making activity 3)



working working working working
WORKING WORKING
WORKING
WORKING living

Given 3 pages with different images on and empty text boxes below I asked - 'what can you write that would challenge viewers' relationship to the image, having unexpected effects?'

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Deforestation	Foliage
Environment	Glycogen
Nature	Glycogen
Chlorophyll	Leaves
Chlorophyll	Glucose
Photosynthesis	Greenery
Cell wall	Oxygen
Plants	Carbon dioxide
	Seasons

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part 3 (Making activity 3)



Procrastination
deadlines
sleep schedule
deprivation
static

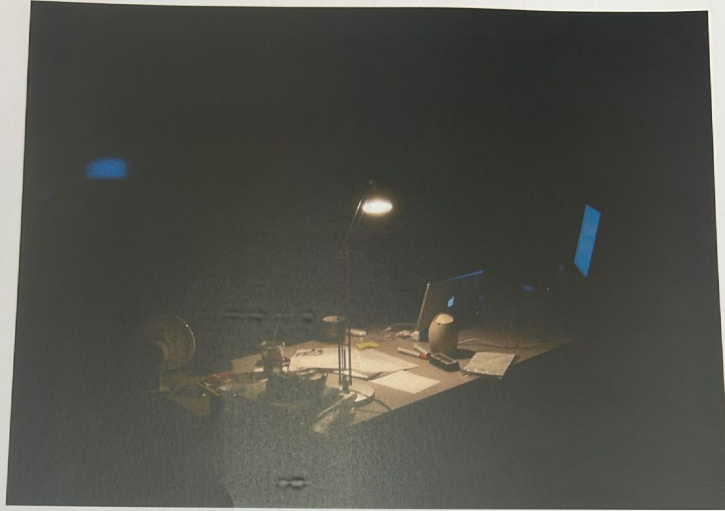


Contained
Entrapment
Excluded
Deprived
possibilities beyond
no access
trespassing



peace of mind
breathing
Escape
Overgrown
Boundless

Analysing and Reflecting on Artworks Part 3 (Making activity 3)



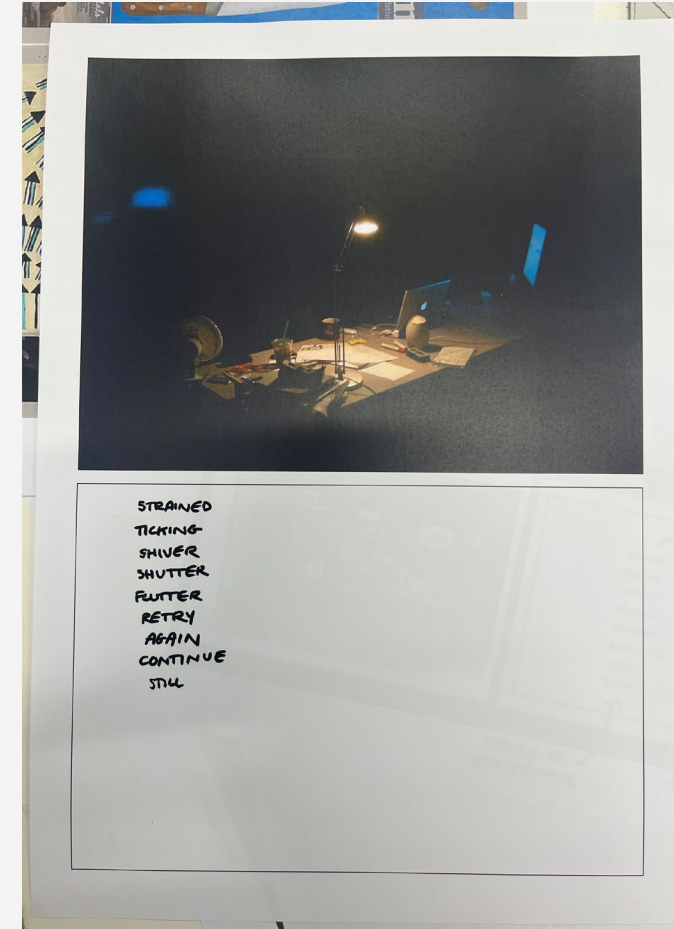
me, my desk and I.
study rest study rest study rest study stop sleep.
what is our purpose in life? To work.
systems. we are the machines in the system.
Cog in a machine.



Strained
Ticking
Shiver
Shutter
Flutter
Retry
Again
Continue
Still

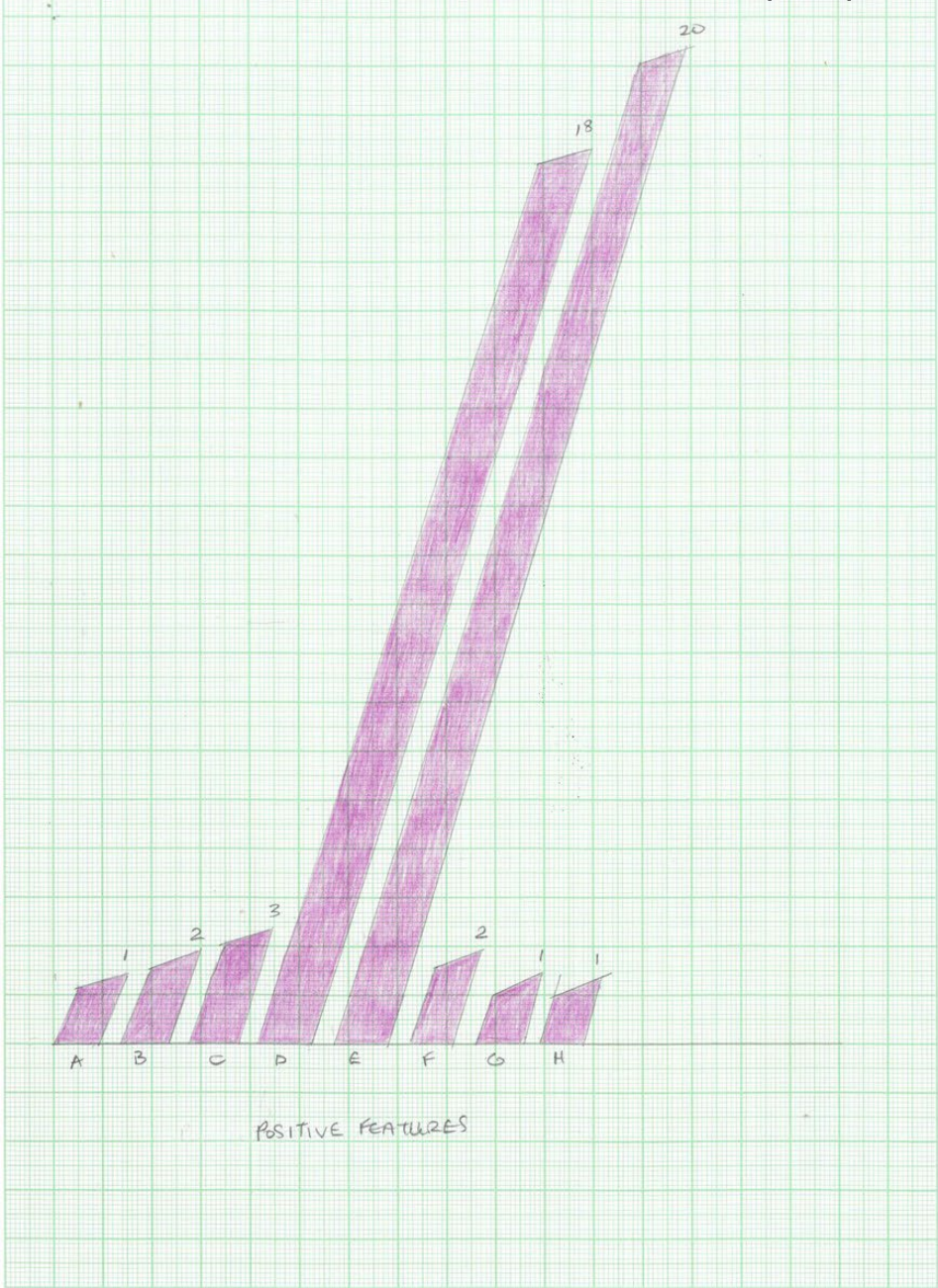


Me, my desk and I
Study rest study rest study rest study
stop sleep.
What is our purpose in life? To work.
Systems. We are the machines in the
system.
Cog in the machine.



After the activity, images were uploaded to a Padlet on a screen then students reflected on and analysed their decisions.

Student feedback data from 22nd, 24th October 2024 workshops – graph based on K. P. Brehmer’s method: Positive Features (left), Negative Features (right)



Student feedback data from 22nd, 24th October 2024 workshops - table

Graph code	Positive features of the workshop	Number of students
A	Space to write	1
B	Interactive	2
C	'Great' or similar	3
D	Group discussion/collaborative working	18
E	Interpreting new artworks/learning different ways to analyse	20
F	New people	2
G	Sheets about artworks	1
H	Delivery	1
	Negative features of the workshop	
I	More interesting tasks	-1
J	More context to artists/add new	-2
K	Make discussion happen	-2
L	More time for making	-3
M	More time for writing	-4
N	More time for discussion/group sharing/interactive	-3
O	Some artworks/language confusing	-2
P	Fact sheet to take away	-1

Reflection on project findings - positive conclusions reached:

- This workshop was teaching a core skill for Fine Art students – analysis – but used a social justice focus, I think this way of teaching could be adopted more often.
- Young students are capable of a lot; they can be trusted with challenging content and can respond innovatively to quite abstract and creative tasks.

Things I would have changed:

- I would have liked to gather data that gauged the effect of the social justice themes of the workshops on each student.
- Less time to plan than I would have wanted in 2024 due to course's suggested schedule of dates for the workshops.
- Either more time, or less artworks. I used only two artworks in 2025. Sessions were 1.5 hours.
- I might have included a task that emphasised writing.
- The Himid activity worked better with BA than Graduate Diploma and MA students – why?

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