

Interview 91 – Robyn = 21 minutes (2 hour transcription)

(In all transcripts I have edited out ums, likes, ahhs and stutters from both the interviewer and interviewee unless it was deemed they added to the context of the response.)

Alex: Okay I have a quick couple questions for you. When did you view the exhibition?

Robyn: A few...multiple times during the time that it was here. Normally for talks and once I brought my brother here to see it when talks weren't happening.

Alex: For how long do you think you viewed the exhibition each time?

Robyn: Each time I went around for at least 20 minutes and sometimes after the talk I would go around again for like 10-15 minutes.

Alex: How long were you there with your brother?

Robyn: We were there for I would say about 10 minutes.

Alex: So one time you viewed it with your brother for the other times did you view it with anyone else?

Robyn: I viewed it with my boyfriend and my housemate on all the other times that I was there.

Alex: Do you remember any conversations or comments you had with either your boyfriend, housemate or brother?

Robyn: With my brother he really connected with the comic versions of the pieces. And he also liked the AR pieces too because he liked how they were interactive. With my housemate and boyfriend we kinda all connected on the when your body becomes a place piece, because they have both been there when I've been struggling with depersonalisation and like derealisation. So they have all been there in like an episode. So they saw that I saw it they gathered around and were like ow are you okay and im like yeah I am fine I just really connected with this and they were like okay. It kinda helped them realise what I go through because I always find it so hard to describe it but when I got to that piece it kinda just like nailed it for me.

Alex: Do you remember any other conversations that you had about the works?

Robyn: Well we went to the talks. The graphic medicine and the one today (on AR/VR) and I remember I was very interested in the graphic medicine side of it because I never really known about it before so it was all quite new to me and I found that quite interesting too.

PE or Social Programming (drawing here too)	
Personal reading exp interpreting text and image FEELINGS	
Temporal Experience (also affective quality)	
Personal memory or association (reliability)	
Motivations for going to exhibitions	
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Value of GME	
Spatial Experience (also affective quality)	
Coding Density	

Alex: Is that why you were interested in viewing the exhibition or was there something else?

Robyn: The first time I viewed the exhibition was to go with my housemate. I didn't actually really know what it was about. She was just like I am going to this will you come with me and I was like ahh...okay... (*hesitant and humorous tone*). And when we got there and the talk started and we started going around I realized that I am actually glad that I went because I had such a connection to the piece and then like the AR interactive thing that if I had actually said no I wouldn't have experienced that. My boyfriend and my housemate wouldn't really understand depersonalisation as much as sharing it was that piece did. So I am actually really glad I went because I was like look. Yeah (*finished tone*).

Alex: And what was it with the AR that interested you?

Robyn: I think it was just because I've seen VR stalls and stuff before but I have never really done it and that one time that I did do it because of my depersonalisation it was VR (hands motioning over eyes) and that kinda wasn't that great for me. It kinda just depersonalised me more. But with the AR and not being surrounded (motion across eyes again) I was able to move it. I was able to visualize it without being too immersed in it. I also thought that it was quite amazing that an art piece could just be scanned and it just appear. And my boyfriend, housemate, brother all of them were really impressed with how interactive it was. Like even after we brought the books (exhibition catalogue) home we would have one on our kitchen table and just like pick it up and start doing all the pieces and it was just like really nice that we were able to also interact with it after.

Alex: Do you remember what order you viewed the exhibition in?

Robyn: So I started at the VAST/O piece and then moved around to the comic right next to it, and this isn't very... ("helpful" - laughter as she was explaining with her hands), and then went onto the when a body becomes a place to the tv and then round and then the last thing I saw was the comics on the other side.

Alex: So, just to be clear, when you say you started with the VAST/O like the front title page?

Robyn: Yeah.

Alex: Did you read any of the longer pieces of text?

Robyn: Uh-hm. I read the one next to the rose. And I found that quite interesting. I don't really have much to say on it really. But yeah.

Alex: Do you remember whenever you viewed it if you sat down on any of the benches?



Robyn: Yeah, the first time we went we sat on the benches and just looked at all the pieces together which was very pretty but also because of the way it was set up some pieces you couldn't see from the benches. But it was also nice to just step back and look at all of them together. From the bench we were sitting at you could see all of the comic (wild child) together so that was quite nice because then you could also, instead of being so close, you could step back and just look at it from where you are.

Alex: And when you interacted with the comics did you read each one?

Robyn: The ones with words in them? I found the ones without words more impactful. Just because you have to guess what's going on in them instead of being told and I quite like that. Because I am more of a visual person so seeing just the longer piece (wild child) without words at the beginning that made me more interested in where it was going so yeah.

Alex: You have in some ways but can you describe your experience viewing the exhibition?

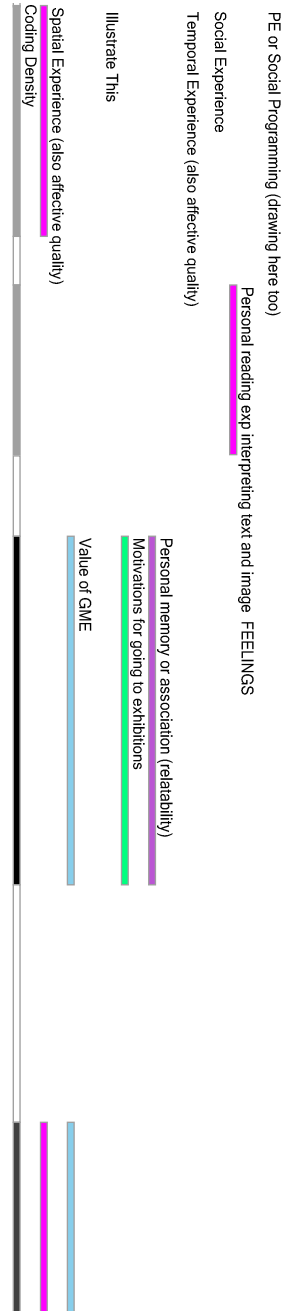
Robyn: I really enjoyed it and I, from when I was told about going, I didn't realise how impactful it was going to be. Especially with one of the pieces really hitting like the right spot of my depersonalisation. I would love to see it in Portugal but I can't (laughter together). But it was a lot more intriguing than I thought it was going to be because at first I was like very apprehensive and I was like I am not a very like ah... because I was just told that we were going to a graphic medicine talk and I was like I really don't know what that is but okay. To then after going once I was so intrigued that I went over and over again and if I didn't really like something I wouldn't take my brother along or I wouldn't take my boyfriend along so it was all quite nice to show everyone the piece of work (when the body becomes a place) and everyone I took always had a positive experience of going. Yeah.

Alex: So other than the things you have shared was there anything else that came to your mind when you viewed it?

Robyn: Not that I can think of.

Alex: And so the exhibition was about anxiety, and as you very eloquently discussed parts of that brought in depersonalisation and spatial anxiety, I was just wondering if you could explain maybe how you experienced that in the exhibition?

Robyn: With the way that the exhibition was laid out even though it was quite a small space it was still very open and I really like that for someone who deals with anxiety and depersonalisation and sometimes being too crowded can trigger anxiety but in the pieces where and like the rough draft of the cage I think that if that will be finally done that would be an amazing piece to show about anxiety because as soon as it saw it, I was told how it was going to happen, that kinda nailed it for me too.



Because I was like it was great that that piece can be done and I think when it comes to the pieces either if it has that information or not on what the piece is you can still tell that it is about mental health and people going out of their way to show the struggles that people have been through and I think that is quite impactful for people to share their stories in such a creative way. Like the video piece that was up that was quite, when you just walk past it you don't really notice what it is but with the sounds and everything drawing you in, as soon as I got to that piece I was like it kinda... to me it related to an anxiety attack and the breathing so...and like the unevenness of the sounds and just everything going in and out was very impactful. Yeah.

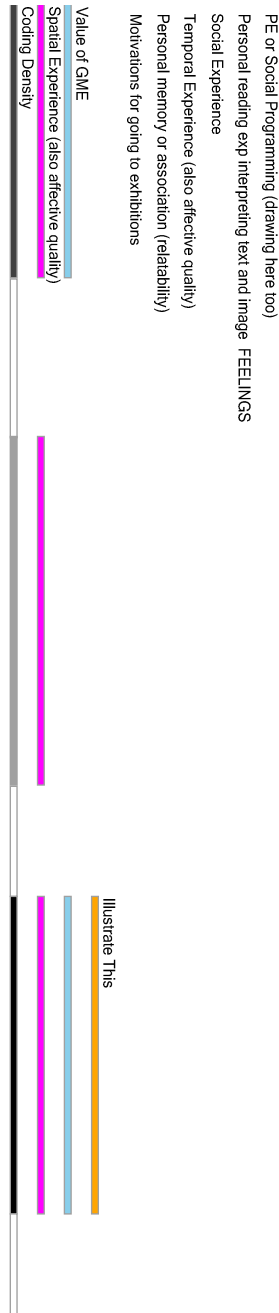
Alex: And you mentioned the openness of the space and was that just what was happening as far as that was laid out on the walls or, if you could elaborate on that, did that also mean the location of the gallery itself?

Robyn: I think where the gallery was quite a good place because it brought in a lot of people who probably wouldn't've gone there to begin with. Ah, when I mean openness I mean more the way it was laid out because, like the comic for instance (wild child), even that was in its own section, and the first time I came it was very much two or three people go in and then people come out and people come in again so its not like with some art galleries where you go into where they have tried to show mental health and they have tried to make the space quite small and you feel quite compact but then that's not really great for people who struggle with that kind of thing because that could just trigger them but with the openness that, if the pieces were still quite compact and wanted to make you feel a certain way they still did that even with the openness of the gallery.

Alex: So, my next question is about the comics being displayed, and I just wondered what was your impression of comics on exhibition?

Robyn: I've never really seen it before. I have not been to a lot of galleries but the ones I have been to there've never been comics there. I have never really thought about having comics displayed, but the way they were displayed, just having them all out (hand motion across invisible wall) was very nice to just to be able to transition from left to right instead of it being an actual comic and like flipping (hand motion flipping book pages in hand). It felt Like it was kinda more immersive because instead of you having to come out of the zone to flip a page you kinda just went along with the story so it kinda seemed more like an animation kinda (quizzical – not quite the right word tone) than a comic because you, it was kinda like you had a camera and you were moving it instead of like physically having to transition (flip page motion).

Alex: I just have one more question for you and that is overall what was your impression of the exhibition?



Robyn: I really enjoyed it. I think for people who suffer with mental health and people who don't it can be still impactful. It tells multiple stories and even with the main focus being anxiety if you have had mental health issues like my depersonalisation where it still has traits in there I think you can still relate even if you don't have anxiety. Anxiety is, compared to other mental health illnesses, it is quite well known and with some of the pieces you can kinda tell what the difference between feeling anxious and anxiety. And I don't think a lot of people know the difference between anxious and anxiety because everyone can be anxious but anxiety is much more than that and that's why sometimes it can be down played. But I just think because some of the pieces showed the extremeness of what anxiety can be it's a lot more impactful and it think the people who I can with and shown they all got the message that it was about mental health and most of them about the severe-ness of how it could be and I think that is great for people who have mental health issues and those who don't can all get the same message but also can put their own experiences with it. Yeah, that's it really.

Alex: Before the end, if there is anything my question didn't get at but you want to share you are welcome to.

Robyn: There is nothing I can think of.

[end]

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