

Ava O Donohoe

N00202345

0851540795

Artist Statement

My work titled 'UTOPIA' is about dancing, euphoria and freedom. I studied abroad in Berlin and fell in love with the nightlife and the culture surrounding the clubnachts. Recently Berlin techno has been UNESCO protected. While I was in Berlin I found dancing to be the best way to release all stresses, worries and personal issues. I would walk in and hear the thumping of the music and instantly feel euphoric. The sense of community and respect each person had for each other created a safe space for me to be completely myself. In Berlin I felt isolated and lonely, when I walked into a nightclub I was part of a huge community and I felt at peace and at home. I wanted to pay homage to these amazing moments that I had.

In this piece I wanted to create the illusion of a bathroom stall in a nightclub. The sound of the muffled distant techno pumping, the graffiti on the walls and the broken toilet. My video is a compilation of clips of someone dancing by themselves, myself DJ-ing and found footage from 90's raves. The sound is a mix that I have made and put the channel levels on my DJ decks to the lowest EQ that they can go.

Stills from my final video in term 1. Titled *But, I love you*





Here is my video installed in Pallas. It was installed using a monitor and headphones. I chose the use of headphones as it allowed the viewer to get closer to the piece and hear the audio clearly.

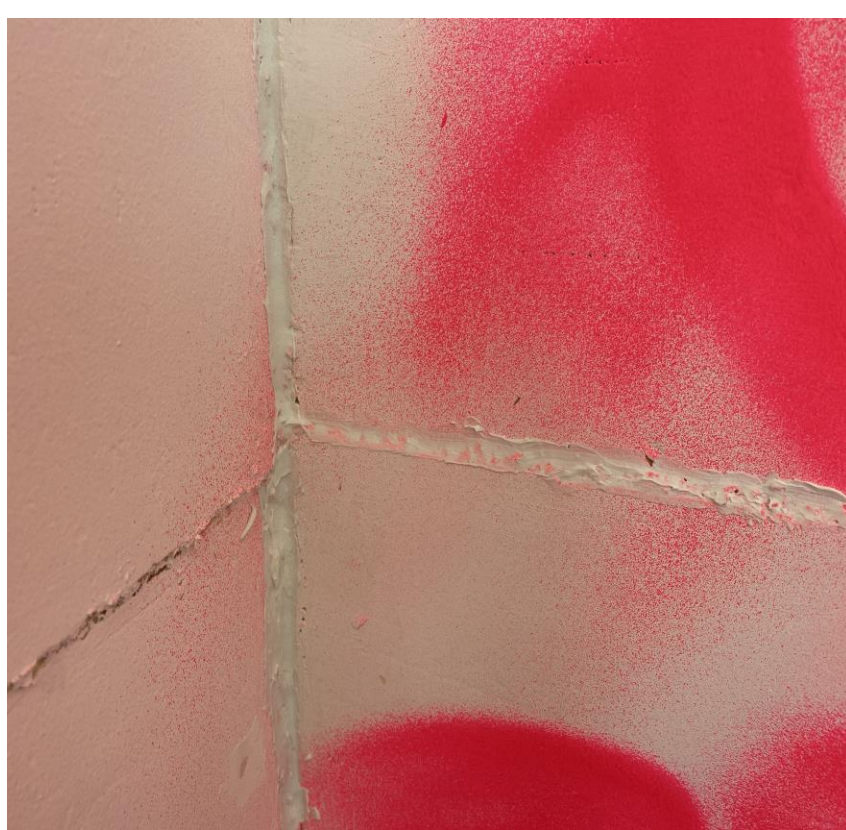
But, I love you is a video exploring my personal experience with a toxic romantic relationship and coming to terms with the fact this relationship has changed me. Through my work I want to explore the impacts a toxic relationship has on a person both physically and mentally, and how it leaves you damaged for the next romantic partner. A toxic romantic relationship to me is someone who constantly puts you down, changes your appearance, abuses you physically and mentally and isolates you from friends and family. In my video *But, I love you* I have a pristine untouched doll, an obsessed character shows love and obsession. This character destroys the doll and puts her back in her box completely damaged, ready for the next person to play with.

https://youtu.be/eNKoaPMKfMQ?si=wQyANf_nvEK-c





I made the bathroom stall out of insulation. I wanted to use recycled materials to build this installation so I used left-over materials from a building site. The insulation boards are stuck together using wire rods and expanding foam. It is 4ft deep, 4ft wide and 6ft high.



I then painted the walls white with multiple coats. I scraped the excess expanding foam off the walls. I then used caulk and polly filler to smoothen out the corners. I spray painted the walls to give a graffiti effect.



These are pictures of graffiti that I found in the women's bathrooms. I then asked my classmates to write whatever they wanted on my installation walls. To create some interaction with my work and to allow for anonymous slogans and designs. To create the illusion of a bathroom stall.



UTOPIA, 2024, installation and video, 4ft by 6ft

Here is *UTOPIA* fully installed with the broken toilet, bathroom stall and video projected onto the back wall.



<https://vimeo.com/944649594?share=copy>



To create the sound for the installation I created a mix from two free download tracks. On my DJ decks, I found the beat that I wanted and created a loop. I kept the fader in the middle to play both tracks at the same time. To create the thumping muffled sound I had the MID and EQ channel levels on the lowest. I put my speakers inside of a wooden plinth to create the illusion of being in a nightclub bathroom.



Still image from the video aspect of *UTOPIA*



https://youtu.be/ylQSGpzCt_Y



<https://vimeo.com/944651478?share=copy> this is a video of the installation in the space.

My video that is projected onto the back wall is composed of someone dancing alone, found footage of a 90's rave and myself DJ-ing. I wanted to focus on movement for the video aspect. The different styles of dancing while alone in an empty room compared to when in a crowd. I wanted to show the euphoria that I feel while im dancing. I played a dance playlist for the dancer in the video and I asked her to dance whatever way she wanted and to be as free as possible. Dancing makes me feel carefree and I wanted to pay homage to this in my video.

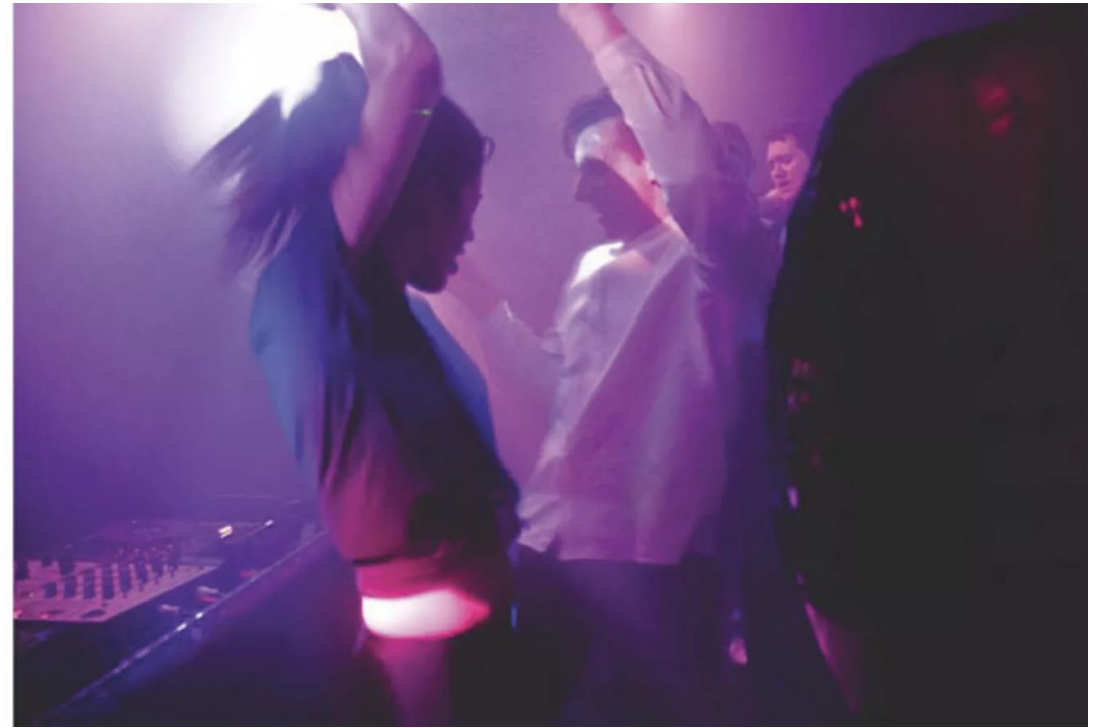


DJ Sprinkles at F8, John Aardal, photography.

Honey Soundsystem, The Nightlife Collective that includes the artists, Jacob Sperber, Jason Kendig, Robert Yang and Josh Cheon. Their work pays homage to underground queer nightlife's storied past. The collective are DJ's and producers with a passion for disco, house and techno but they also commission elaborate site-specific installations and art works.



So Low, Katie Shambles, Photography, 2015.



Perfect Boyfriends, Perfect Boyfriends, 2015.

The Poetry Club by Jim Lambie. Lambie turned an abandoned railway arch into a functioning venue. Since then, The Poetry club has evolved into a free open to all, arts space and club nights. Lambie explains “The archiving and documentation of performances, events, audience presence and participation are interlinked with the space as an artwork.”



My Night of Unlimited Favour, Haroon Mirza, installation/event, 2016.

My Night of Unlimited Favour, an event curated by Gaia Fugazza, Sisters from Another Mister, Haroon Mirza and Polykicks. Fugazza had the urge to ‘curate’ a party claiming “experiencing some art in galleries and museums and feeling that a party could be better context for them.” Fugazza contributed to this artwork through the medium of video work and installation duo.