

Evaluation

I started this project with an open mind. I had no idea how my project would develop or what my final outcome would be. This was a new experience for me as I normally begin with a set idea of what I want to finally produce. At the beginning, my focus was to achieve a realistic resemblance of the electrical impulses that occur naturally in the human body. I stated, in my project proposal, that my aim was to do this through researching the biology behind this phenomenon and using what we might consider 'man made' electricity (light) to visualise these unseen currents.

I believe that my final piece effectively expresses this concept. The time spent on developing unit 7 meant that the outcome could form from the process of building research, references and inspiration. Thus, allowing the natural flow of material to develop into an original, pure and genuine idea. My knowledge behind my theme of 'electrical impulses' grew as I moved through the unit, giving me the breakthrough idea that not only does electricity appear in the body, but it is a key element of sustaining life. With further progression of the project I have produced work highlighting the importance of electrical impulses.

Research into artists, and the process which they go through to produce their work, supported the development of my project and final piece. By selecting specific details and endeavouring to try a variation of approaches upheld by these artists I could progress with a sense of professionalism and achievement, inspired by their techniques to improve and experiment with my work. Throughout February and March, I spent the majority of my time, carrying out these processes which meant that I had to suddenly spend time at the end of my project documenting it. If I were to re-do this project I would more effectively distribute my time between carrying out the process and recording it.

Overall, I am pleased with my final piece; however, I think it could be greatly improved by the display of the process as part of the exhibition. Currently 'the before and after' sculptures only show the results of applying electricity, whereas, if I had found a way to make the graphite glow while on display then my piece would be the embodiment of an electrical impulse, not just a representation. If I were to continue and with access to technical electrical tools this would be my next step. I am also disappointed with my light box frame. Due to low funds, I was only able to purchase a set amount of wood. Therefore, I had to sacrifice some detail – using a Butt joint instead of a Mitre joint – lowering its overall standard. This affected my piece so much that I decided to remove the frame. From this experience, I have learnt that money should be set-aside for any unexpected costs.

I am particularly satisfied with the form of the spinal cords. The pencil leds - a solid structure - appear to have the fluidity of a human organ. The same shapes can be seen when looking back to my research and the first still life drawings of the central nervous system. As the sculptures are openly hung the contours can be fully appreciated – whereas if I were to have a live open current in a public exhibition (to make them glow) they would have to be contained. This would not only disrupt my own work but also the ones alongside.

In designing my work as part of an exhibition I learnt new skills. The experience taught me to consider other people's work and how to compare and contrast it to my own. I enjoyed

designing my space and thinking about which layout would maintain the essence of my work without intruding on those next to mine. I have also developed technical skills in creating a professional show open to the public. The works must be hung neatly and securely, to a deadline, and in a way that will not intrude on the finished pieces, which must withstand transportation and the public's presence.

Overall I feel that the project was a success. It is my belief that I have achieved my aims of exploring the phenomenon of nerve impulses and electricity in the body and then visualising this using light. Nevertheless, I can see that some areas that I explored could be broadened and looked into more thoroughly, something that I wish to pursue. Throughout Unit 7 this project has reinforced and established my understanding of: concept creation and development - through the creation of my project proposal and maintaining aims, construction and composition - through technical drawings and processes, then finally exhibition curation with the creation of the Foundation Show 2017.