

Exhibition in a Box

Community Showcase

Over 300 community members have worked alongside professional artists to contribute to this reflective collection of artworks inspired by Exhibition in a Box - a multi-sensory resource exploring silence in relation to the First World War.



Exhibition in a Box has been created by Head4Arts in partnership with Cyfarthfa Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Glamorgan Archives, Gwent Archives, National Museum Wales and Winding House Museum. The project has been supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



To view the Education Pack please visit www.inspiredbyhistory.cymru/

Shot at Dawn

by Theatre AdHoc

Under the direction of theatre maker Andrew Pippen, Theatre AdHoc have created this short film, after participating in a workshop on the silence of 'Shot at Dawn.'

<https://vimeo.com/326580036>

It focuses on the 15 men from Wales that were shot, and captures the impact of this action from many different perspectives, including the people that had to fire the shots, the families left behind, the prejudice within communities and concludes with the recontextualization of the actions that led to the executions, by looking at them from the perspective of the 21st Century and knowledge of PTSD.

Creative Writing

Ysgol Panteg & Ebbw Vale U3A

Pupils from Ysgol Panteg worked with Storyteller Tamar Williams, to explore the contents of the boxes and to discuss the different types of silences connected to the First World War.



Pupils were encouraged to step into the shoes of characters that were connected to the objects.



Some created letters relating to the objects and others used 21st Century references to show empathy with soldiers and imagine how their experiences could be translated in the modern day – such as describing missing their favourite food - pizza!



Members of the Ebbw Vale U3A group used Exhibition in a Box as the inspiration for written work, basing their responses around the different types of silences they explored.



Mini Exhibitions in Boxes

Caerphilly Youth Services Mid Valleys West Hub Group

Working alongside a team of artists, young people based at the Hanger Aberbargoed re-created their own versions of “Exhibition in a Box”.



They took inspiration from objects included in a number of the boxes to develop their work.



The group explored decoupage and mono-printing techniques with artist Rhian Anderson to decorate and age their boxes. They worked with Chris Walters to make replica death pennies out of clay, representing the silence of mourning.



Textile artist Penny Turnbull helped the group to make sweetheart pincushions linking to the silence of women and digital artist Natasha James introduced the group to different

photography techniques, exploring the use of studio photography and image manipulation during WW1.

Matchboxes

**Coed Cae Interact Group, Sofrydd Primary School, White
Rose Primary School, 2nd Merthyr Cubs,
Pen-y-Dre High School**

This work is made up of many individual responses to the silences represented in Exhibition in a Box, with each person selecting a shape or object to recreate. Each has been made in the same uniform way; white plastic contained within a white match box but each object still has the imprint from the person who created them – even if it is just a finger print.



On mass this personal imprint is lost and can only be seen close up. This is to reflect the mass white military grave's stretching for miles and miles in places such as Ypres. At first glance you can only see the thousands of white head stones and it is only on closer examination you see the details of the person.

Box Art – Layers of the Human Face

Pen-y-Dre High School Art Department

Pupils from Pen-y-Dre High School particularly liked the way that each box told a personal story and were inspired by the use of boxes as learning tools.



They have made boxes that explore different layers of the human face, looking at creative ways to present educational information.

Sweetheart pincushions

Caerphilly Artspark group

These colourful heart shaped pin cushions were created by Caerphilly Artspark group, working with textile artist Penny Turnbull.



They were made in response to the box based on the silence of women in WW1. In this box was a replica sweetheart pincushion, alongside a suffragette's brooch, a sweetheart brooch

and a thimble. An original WW1 Sweetheart pin cushion is much bigger in scale, approximately 15- 20 inches in size.



It would have been made by a wounded military service man, as part of their recuperation therapy, and sent to their sweetheart. Artspark focused on the replica sweetheart pincushion to make their own versions, exploring vibrant colours and rich textures.

Creative Writing and Audio

The Hwb, Blaenavon and Willows Youth Club, Troedyrhiw

These poems have been made with performance art poet Rufus Mufasa. Both groups explored and discussed the different WW1 silences portrayed in Exhibition in a Box. Rufus captured their words as they related the different silences to their own lives.

<https://vimeo.com/331001462>

<https://vimeo.com/331219893>

The result is rich mix of the horrors of WW1 not just for humans but also animals and an exploration of what war meant in 1914-1918 as a comparison to wars that are being fought now on global and personal scales.

Apothecary Table

Soffryd Primary School

Year 5/6 pupils from Soffryd Primary School worked with artist Megan Lloyd to explore the silence of soldiers from other cultures and countries.



The class drew inspiration from their current topic of India to explore the experiences of Indian soldiers during the First World War, discovering that over 1 million Indian troops fought overseas between 1914 – 1918.



The result is rich mix of the horrors of WW1 not just for humans but also animals and an exploration of what war meant in 1914-1918 as a comparison to wars that are being fought now on global and personal scales.



The pupils explored Indian textiles, patterns and designs and combined these with Welsh symbols to create batik banners and flags. The pupils experienced Indian dance to learn about traditional ceremonies and had lots of fun trying on costumes from both countries.

Wall Hanging

Members of St David's Church, Merthyr Tydfil and attendees at open family sessions at Big Pit and Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery

This wall hanging has been created by a number of participants at gallery workshops and open family sessions, where as part of exploring the different silences of WW1 they drew the object they were drawn to.



With the help of textile artist Amy Mackenzie-Mason, this drawing was then developed into print form, and each print response connected to create a collective piece.

Wire words

Coed Cae Interact Group, Ebbw Vale U3A, Soffryd Primary School, Penydre High School, 2nd Merthyr Cubs

This work captures the words people used to describe how the experience of exploring Exhibition in a Box made them feel.



As part of the exhibition workshop process they reflected on the work, discussed, made notes and selected the most poignant words to write in wire.

