

Level 6 – Research Framework Document - expandable template

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NAME Maksym Ofman

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Summary Sentence or Research Question:

The role of imagination in the life of the Anglo-Saxons: How, through the artefacts and stories they left behind, can we picture their world ?

Summary Statement:

In my project I have been simultaneously incorporating the three means of artistic expression – drawing, creative writing and making 3D objects. I've been reflecting on the research material I had gathered on the time of Anglo-Saxon rule in Britain, focusing on the spiritual beliefs and customs of ordinary Anglo-Saxon society. I found *The Real Middle Earth* by Brian Bates exceptionally inspiring in that subject.¹ It made me realise how rich was the spiritual day-to-day life of Anglo-Saxons and how deeply filled with imagination their society was. I have used the information I gathered to create a narrative for those pieces of the Dark Ages that survived to our times, not only the artefacts but also stories and places of significance, for people to see the real spirit of those times and get a glimpse of the society filled with imagination and magic of mystery.

I have come up with three different mini projects within my final major project, where each one of them tells a different story based on the Anglo-Saxon historical sites, legends and history:

- Lindisfarne story – 'Within mud and dirt and sea grass the path to holiness leads.'
- Battle story – 'If with sword or if with mace doesn't change the colour red.'
- Iceland story- 'They sing it in the ear of their lady-sorceress-at night, who sits between the men of a different kind.'

¹ Brian Bates, *The Real Middle Earth: Magic and Mystery in the Dark Ages* (London: Pan Macmillan, 2003).

Key Words:

Anglo-Saxons

Ritual/Ceremonial

Imagination

Metal

Poetry

Drawing

Metaphysical

Research Methods:

- Going to museums
 - Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery(September 2018)
 - The Staffordshire Hoard
 - Ashmolean Museum, Oxford(September 2018)
 - Saga Museum, Reykjavik(March 2019)
 - National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavik(March 2019)
 - British Library; 'The Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms'(exhibition)(February 2019)
 - The Great Gold Buckle from Sutton Hoo
 - The Albert's Jewel
 - The Lindisfarne Gospels
 - British Museum(January 2019)
 - The Sutton Hoo Treasure
 - Barbican Centre, London; 'Wetwang Slack'(exhibition)(January 2019)
 - The National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh(October 2018)
 - The Monymusk Reliquary
- Visiting relevant historical sites
 - The Holy Island of Lindisfarne(October 2018)
 - Durham(October 2018)
 - Bamburgh Castle(October 2018)
 - Glastonbury(April 2019)
 - West Stow(January 2019)
 - Battle(January 2019)
- Reading books
 - Sara Hannant, *Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids: A journey through the English ritual year* (Merrell Publishers Limited, 2011).
 - Brian Bates, *The Real Middle Earth: Magic and Mystery in the Dark Ages* (London: Pan Macmillan, 2003).
 - David M.Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Art: From the seventh century to the Norman conquest* (Thames and Hudson Ltd, 1984).
 - Prudence Jones and Nigel Pennick, *A History of Pagan Europe* (London: Routledge, 1995).

Medium for Research:

- Photography
 - Taking pictures to document the artefacts I have found in museums and galleries, that are relevant to my project.
 - Using digital photography to catch the atmosphere of the places I've been visiting.

- Drawing
 - Documenting the artefacts in museums by sketches
 - Drawing the sites and places from my research trips
 - Making drawings from imagination, interpreting what I've seen
 - Making big scale(A1) charcoal drawings as a narrative for the objects I make
- Creative Writing
 - Writing poems inspired by my research trips and the artefacts/places I've seen. Then feeding those poems into the narrative for my 3D objects

Material and Technical Investigation:

- Working with metal
 - I have used repousse technique for various elements of my three mini projects, as I think it's a good technique to depict the spirit of the Early Medieval times. It can also be quite expressive, which is how I like to work. It's other advantage is that I was able to apply some of the symbols from my stories on the 3D pieces.
 - I have also used quite a bit of enameling, as it represents the color accents that occur in Anglo-Saxon metalwork, especially use of the red garnets which I substituted with the red enamel.
 - Riveting has been one of the essential techniques that I used to put my pieces together. The separate element were not touching and were sometimes from different materials, therefore I could not use soldering but riveting worked perfectly.
- Incorporating wood into my designs
For my Battle and Lindisfarne projects I've been making maces where I incorporate metal elements with the wooden branches.
- Sewing
I have also done a bit of sewing to create costume for the character and give my 3D objects more of a narrative and background.

Timescale of work across the year:

- October - November : research(details of the museum's/historical site's visit time by the name of the museum/ historical site)
- December - January : material experimentation
 - Repousse experimentation(December 2018)
 - Riveting practicing(January 2019)
 - Enameling experimentation(February 2019)
- February – May : making
 - Making the apple carrier for the Lindisfarne project(February-March 2019)
 - Making the maces for the Battle project(March-April 2019)
 - Making the cape and the brooch(April 2019)
 - Making the jewellery piece for the Iceland project(April-May 2019)

Identify potential professional contexts for your work:

- Props
- Performance
- Historical reconstruction events
- Educational
- TV and film industry

3D Outcomes:

- A three different narratives/stories, emerging from the Anglo-Saxon culture and time, consisting of series of artefacts accompanied by poems and drawings :
- The Lindisfarne story – I have made the apple carrier with the bowl and a chain
- The Battle story – I have made two maces of different size and design
- The Iceland story – I have made a jewellery piece with repousse and enameled elements

Presentation & Display:

- I'm going to present my 3D objects along my drawings and poems, as well as big scale photos of my pieces photographed in the context of their narrative.

Portfolio / Publication:

I'm going to have a folder of the rest of my drawings and photos presented along with my 3D work.

Ethical considerations - If you answer YES to any of these questions then email Patrick IMMEDIATELY

Will you be asking anyone questions (interviews and or questionnaires)?

Will you ask people to test or physically evaluate your work for you?

Do you intend to run a workshop that involves a group of people?

Do you intend photographing, videoing or sound recording anyone?

Does your work involve children?

Brief outline of ethical considerations:

I asked a person to sound record them reading some of my poems, they signed the Consent Form and were aware that they can withdraw from the project any time.

BA(hons) Dissertation Title / MDes Essay Titles:

The emergence of the Anglo-Saxon culture: a story written by treasures