

Collab Mali Draper and Danielle Waine.

With our practices meeting in the middle (Mali's writing, film making, performance, sound work and Danielle's sound work, performance, installation and workshop) we've been making work based around middles, in-betweens and 'othered' sensations and states that jump between different levels of reality and fiction, fluidity and fragmentation. This is loosely based on the hook of a somewhat fictional narrative wherein a person finds themselves trapped on an island for a night after missing the last low tide. We've focused and supposed about their fleeting fixations of aspects of this experience and environment.

A notable feature of the narrative is a reoccurring flashing red light in the distance (one of their only two light sources). The origin is indefinable, which acts sometimes as an anchoring signal, bringing the narrator back to their present, but also sometimes works opposingly, further fragmenting the narrative. It also represents a state of standby; it is a presence that has both unsettling authority and comfort. The written text recalls the way that the emergency lighting visually disperses in a scene from the book *Metro 2033* (bit of an 'othering' idea inspo for Danielle) as well as noting the comforting, caring aspects in its warm glow.

Our collab process works on a cycle of memory/idea and the communication of this to the other. The idea is translated, possibly becoming misunderstood as it is relayed back, then the product (writing, sound or an installation/performance) is deconstructed and pieced back together as a new formation. Similar to the way our own memories are instantly altered and 'othered', as soon as they are made. This 'othering' has become a product of the work process where the difficulties of collaboration have been used as creative material instead of a setback and is what the project thrives off.

The ideas of being stuck/trapped in the middle/limbo/in-between etc. relate to us as recent graduates trying to find our way professionally alongside a balance in life, identity and wellness. There is also a wider context and relevance of trying to figure out what's really going on in the world. We are thinking about the grey areas or disheartening murkiness of current social and political climates and what they may mean for our uncertain futures (Mali talked of Adam Curtis' ideas of how we're sold a simplified version of reality). Our work recognises feeling constantly stuck in the middle and trying to pick out clarity in a haze of misinformation.

The collaboration is expressing all these ideas through a range of sensory experiences like writing, reading, hearing, seeing whilst heavily focusing on environment and texture. This mirrors how we all feel and is kind-of an expression of taking ownership and repurposing the 'shit storm' we're collectively experiencing. We are taking an optimistic stance in response to this complicated feeling of being tricked and not knowing what's going on, or simply doing something to help filter it.

The physical work itself is split into 7 main texts, a projected film and 7 accompanying sound tracks with some installation features such as the red lights (the ones Danielle used at her OUTPUT solo show)... also possibly cover output lights with red gel filters) and the large acetate dust sheet curtain through the middle of the space.

Show:

- * Projection: film snippets of water, red lights, textures, ground...
- * Printed text on walls/some possibly with translucent sheets over/partly concealed
- * Acetate sheet/curtain in middle of space – divide – film projected through this onto wall behind and the text mounted there.
- * Red lights (important but undecided on installation – will deffo be used in performance)
- * Audio throughout into the gallery: soundtrack and speech/text – 7 tracks play on loop
- * Small shelf with working progress zines (writings, imagery etc) along one wall.

* Zines: containing writing, images, etc. To sell at PV and throughout

* CDs: containing 7 tracks from show and track produced from workshop 2 – to be sold for remainder of show after workshop 2

Opening night performance:

Because the text is split into 7 main sections – 7 staggered performances of the text throughout the evening.

Workshop 1: Writing methods:

1st half: techniques on how to build narratives, flowing writing

Imagine own short narrative around theme of being trapped

Build on and write that narrative.

2nd half: deconstructing and fragmenting that narrative

Methods like: picking out words from text, using mis-communication: read your text to a partner who's wearing ear defenders/plugs while they write what they hear

The product of the fragmentation is the text you take away for next workshop

Workshop 2: Sound Mapping:

Group pick out key points/words of interest from texts from previous workshop

Map out words within gallery

Translate (give methods: drawing and text – interpret into sound)

Record -> need a recording device

Workshop end

Mali and Danielle piece together sound track and edit – release online as a free download

Suggested timeline:

Day 1: PV show with performances (Fri?)

Day 2: Workshop 1 (Sat?)

Day 3: Workshop 2 (Sun?)

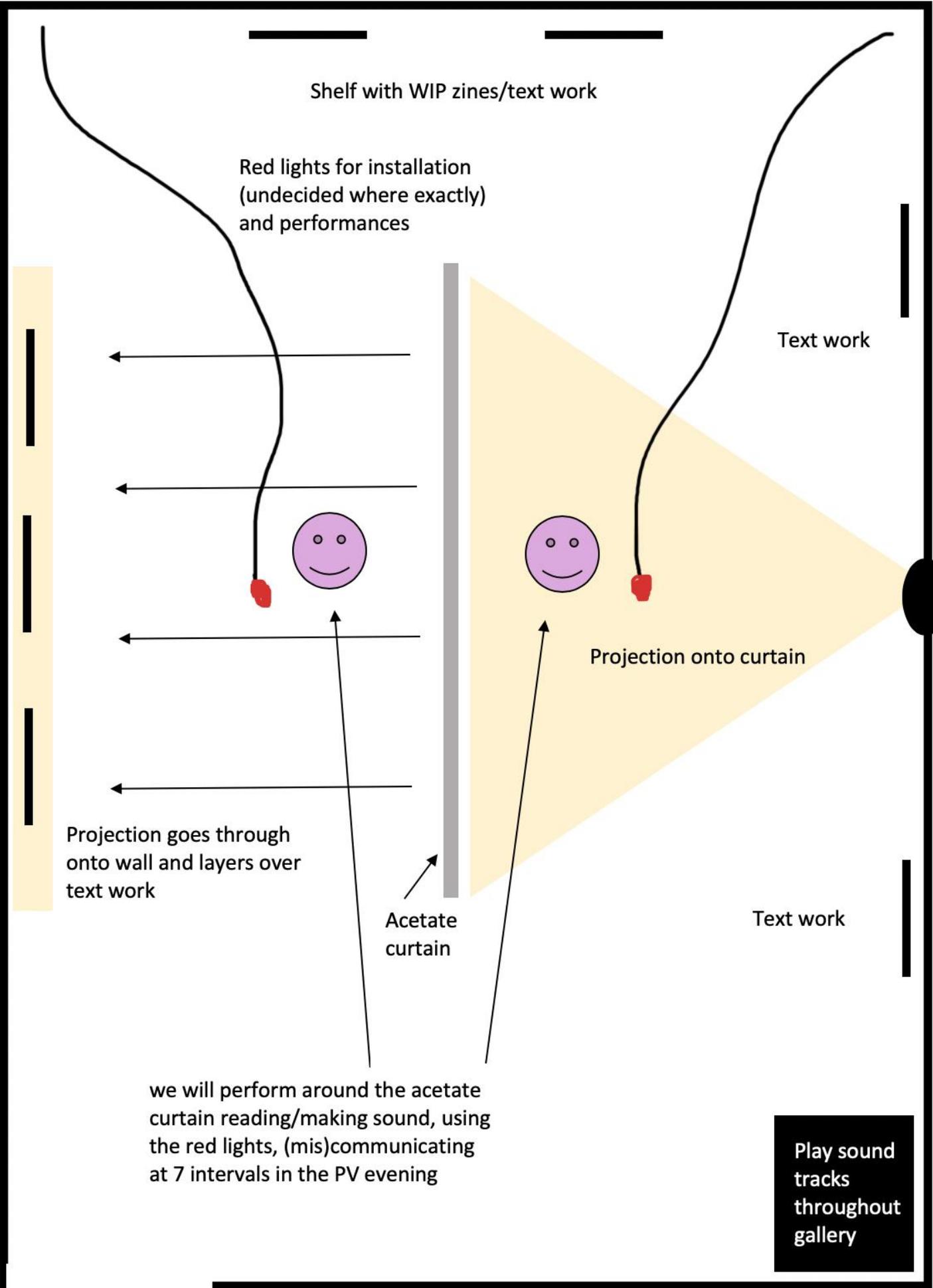
Day 4: show

Day 5: show

Day 6: show

Day 7: show (show case of track made at workshop maybe?)

Dates in advance so Mali can book week off from work, 3 weeks in advance or more.



Shelf with WIP zines/text work

Red lights for installation
(undecided where exactly)
and performances

Text work

Projection onto curtain

Projection goes through
onto wall and layers over
text work

Acetate
curtain

Text work

we will perform around the acetate
curtain reading/making sound, using
the red lights, (mis)communicating
at 7 intervals in the PV evening

Play sound
tracks
throughout
gallery

