

**putting urself first: queer blog encounters no one asked
for but are getting anyway.**

Liam Mooney

Exegesis in support of practice-based Thesis
Master of Visual Arts
Auckland University of Technology

2022

abstract

putting urself first: queer blog encounters no one asked for but are getting anyway, is a reflective healing process that looks into the trials and tribulations of moving on after heart break. This practice-based research project weaves its way through my past, present and future, raising questions around how my personal experience and queer intimate lifestyle can be situated within academic research. Through the influence of *my queer encounters* and everyday happenings, the project analyses the relationship between my past and present introduced in the form of blog entries. By observing these moments of encounter in relation to my past, I am able to manifest these as self-portraits through the means of performance and installation. The way my life presents itself as research is linked to the intimate connection it has to my research methodology. Supported by the diaristic methods of the blog posts and being so open to displaying my vulnerabilities publicly, the project introduces the idea of queering heteronormative academic expectations within research. This, in turn, explores the dynamics between public/private spaces, observing/witnessing and online/offline platforms in regard to my practice(life).

contents

4. attestation of authorship

5. list of figures

8. acknowledgements

9. Hello gorgeous,

11. The blog

86. Love, Liam

87. references

89. appendix 1

attestation of authorship

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person (except where explicitly defined in the Acknowledgements), nor material which to a substantial extent has been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution of higher learning.

06.06.2022

list of figures

- Figure 1. the break-up (March 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 2. it's my birthday (April 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 3. happy fucking bday to me (April 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 4. absolutely mortaled (passed out on K-Road) (April 11, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 5. crying in gay (April 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 6. shoving my head up the ass of my past (April 19, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 7. memory collecting process (April 20, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 8. co-ordinates (relationship version) (April 20, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 9. *initial break-up* (April 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 10. day four of *initial break-up* (April 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 11. all the tea is spilled (April 30, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 12. the aftermath (May 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 13. *i am not sorry* (May 7, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 14. *SOUR* by Olivia Rodrigo (May 22, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 15. mans got stamina (May 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 16. anonymous man #1 (May 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 17. moving past my walls (June 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 18. order for Liar (June 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 19. 8 cups of coffee (June 15, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 20. *redeeming coffees* (installation view) (June 15, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 21. *redeeming coffees* (details) (June 16, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 22. art and life (June 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 23. wtf are my research methods? (June 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 24. mesearch, ughhh (June 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 25. the blocking (June 25, 2021) Liam Mooney.
- Figure 26. the blogs function (June 26, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 27. love sick (July 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 28. lies, lies and more lies (August 3, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 29. *why are you talking about Shownu again, now?* (August 9, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 30. facetime with bae (August 10, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 31. *Bad Boy* (lockdown version) by Red Velvet (August 17, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 32. one year anniversary (August 31, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 33. goodbye hair (September 4, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 34. *h(air)t* (September 5, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 35. love goes (September 6, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 36. the bitch is back (September 22, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 37. *official unofficial exegesis* (September 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 38. MCU (October 1, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 39. *viewing contract* (October 1, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 40. why do I gotta be gay? (October 12, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 41. *viewing contract* (official list) (October 13, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 42. wise words from Joey (October 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 43. facetime with Sonia (October 16, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 44. drunk messages (October 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 45. *"private" messages* (October 30, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 46. And I miss you (November 12, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 47. voyeuristic chats (November 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 48. 36 °51' 18.63" S, 174 °46' 2.345" E (November 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 49. *i hate u* (December 4, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 50. 4 am conversations (December 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 51. merry xmas (December 25, 2021) Liam Mooney.

Figure 52. new year not so new me (January 5, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 53. grindr fun (February 12, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 54. neglecton at its finest (February 14, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 55. feeling seen and heard (February 18, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 56. gold member at Starbucks (February 20, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 57. shoutout to my sister (February 22, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 58. avengers let's not assemble (March 3, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 59. miss rona got me (March 5, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 60. hey bro (March 16, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 61. worst day of my life (March 17, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 62. goodbye for now (March 27, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 63. *whatever shit happens in my personal life, I bring straight to my practice* (July 6, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Figure 64. the examination (July 7, 2022) Liam Mooney.

acknowledgements

To James Charlton and Chris Braddock, I don't know what I would have done without your endless support throughout this emotional process. Thanks for putting up with me and sorry for always leaving everything to the last minute.

To Mum and Dad, thank you for always having my back no matter what, I love you both. I don't know what absolute crying mess I would be in if you both weren't there to help get me back on my feet.

To Roche, thanks for providing me with endless hours of coffee, shit talk and laughter I appreciate all your love, advice, and our interesting conversations. Love having you as my best friend (big sis).

To Ronan, I know you may be far away, but I can always count on you to listen when I need help, I love and miss you so so much. I will come visit you soon.

To my MVA cohort, thanks for going through this crazy process with me, you are all amazing creatives and made my master's experience even more enjoyable.

To Jermaine, we have been going through this university journey for a few years now and I couldn't have done it without your constant love and support. Keep being the crazy talented bitch you are.

To Starbucks, thanks for providing me with enough caffeine to push through.

To my ex, thanks for putting me through all this shit. There would be no thesis without the crazy relationship we had together, I hope you are doing well.

Finally, to myself, thanks for being so open and honest with yourself, you sometimes don't give yourself enough credit and you definitely should. You are one crazy and stunning bitch.

Hello gorgeous,

This research project is about me; my life is the research project. After losing the love of my life at the beginning of last year, I have been slowly going through an episodic process of reflection and healing. This is a process that explores connections among my past, present, and future bodies, contextualized by the interactions of a queer relationship and the sudden emotions of heart break to navigate between them. Not only aiming to mend my broken heart, the project also provides insight into how my personal life and day-to-day revelations inform and shift the focus of my practice-led research. Whatever shit happens in my personal life, I bring straight to my practice. The significant people, objects, memories, and spaces I come into contact with I call *my queer encounters*. Through observing these moments of encounter in relation to my past relationship, I am able to manifest them as self-portraits through installation and performance. This connection between my past experiences and my current everyday encounters informs the ways in which my life presents itself as research.

The blurred line between my life and my practice raises questions around the way my experience can constitute knowledge – especially within the academic context of a Postgraduate degree. Like Marianna Papadopoulou, I want to argue that knowledge can never be impersonal; our personal participation is involved in our everyday actions, thoughts and understanding.¹ This might be understood as queering academic research: a disruption of normative boundaries within a structured academic research setting that allows room for my queer intimate lifestyle to be legitimized as a source of knowledge – whether it is self-knowledge or knowledge for others. I assert that this knowledge must be recognized without my research, or myself, being seen as other or less than. I also open up questions about how to assert difference without marginalizing it, especially through a queer voice.

Nikki Sullivan introduces the idea of queering as a deconstructive practice, or something which is not undertaken by an already constituted subject.² Such practice is not to be confused with destructive practice, which lies within heteronormativity. It is not an attempt to somehow annihilate the concepts already rigidly enshrined in the academic structure, rather to highlight the instability within these specific spaces and enable analysis of the effects produced through a cultural and historical sense.³ The idea of queering aims to provide a place for my research to belong, without it being outcasted, as queer individuals are often outcast within society. Throughout this practice-led research project I have exemplified this through the strong connection that my research methodology has to my life: a life in the process of moving on after heartbreak. This is introduced through diaristic methods in the form of blog entries. This has allowed me to navigate through my encounters at a pace I was comfortable with and has served a significant function throughout this project.

The blogs position within this thesis project is crucial. Throughout the blog posts are a series of footnotes, referencing and alluding to a more *academic* tone that contextualises aspects

¹ Marianna Papadopoulou, "The Authority of Personal Knowledge in the Development of Critical Thinking — a Pedagogy of Self-Reflection," *Enhancing Learning in the Social Sciences* 3, no. 3 (July 1, 2011): 1–23, <https://doi.org/10.11120/elss.2011.03030012>.

² Nikki Sullivan, *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*, (NYU Press, 2003).

³ Ibid.

of the project with theorist and artists already looking into similar ideas I am researching. By using the blog as the body of the writing and referring to these ideas on a separate page the reader is constantly drawn back to my personal narrative, queering the heteronormative voice of academia. Julie Rak suggests that documented experience lies at the heart of blogging and acts as a category of knowledge.⁴ The use of a casual and explicit voice throughout this exegesis, queers the research as the reader is reading. By compromising the readers' experience, this truly embodies the academic queering I am aiming for. With my vulnerability on full display, you ride the same queer roller-coaster I have been/continue to be on. My writing positions the reader and their judgements within my life - showing you, not just telling you. I argue that this format is core to my project and the ways in which blogging (and therefore experience) have the ability to sit within academic research. From this perspective, blogging has been used here as a personal tool throughout the project, enabling the reader to *invade* my personal space. The online aspect of the blog creates a tension between private and public and opens up thinking around the role of the audience throughout this project. Not only can the blog be referred to as a separate entity that documents the year in the life of someone who has just been heart broken, it questions the supposed academic expectations of the institution, giving room for a queer voice to be made present.

Having the ability to share my experiences, unfiltered, came with its ups and downs of course. There were times in my life when I was not in the best of shape, making it even harder to motivate myself to continue with this process. With the effects of COVID-19 there were things I was not able to explore or complete, being secluded in my home was limiting and difficult. However, these moments also allowed the project to flourish. There was a shift in my practice and that was solely based on how I was feeling towards the subject of this project. This had an effect on my research and the fluidity between the online and offline spaces that I occupied throughout the project. Even though the blog only documents for a year, it does not mean the process ends. Since my life and my research act as one, there is never a conclusion – at least not until I stop breathing. I see no need for one to provide an outcome. One year later, I may have moved on from the relationship, however, it will still haunt me for the rest of my life. For now, while this part of my journey is complete, I am sure that it will continue to provide knowledge for my practice in the future. This practice-led research project has explored this part of my life perfectly and represented it in a way I, as a queer artist/individual, am totally and fully comfortable sharing. Enjoy the ride.

⁴ Julie Rak, "The Digital Queer: Weblogs and Internet Identity," *Biography* 28, no. 1 (2005): 166–82, <https://doi.org/10.1353/bio.2005.0037>.

The blog

The blog posts throughout this exegesis, are on a live blog site (link below). I would prefer if these were read online rather than through the figures seen throughout this document. The footnotes that work alongside the blog posts are situated on a separate page of the blog site; you can find them by clicking the “Footnotes” tab on the left-hand side of the page.

<https://puttingurselffirst.blogspot.com/>

March 27, 2021

BITCHHHHH I CANT EVEN. To top my fucking week off it is over, me and my mans are done, like for real **DONE.** 🤔🤔 After a lovely nine months apparently falling in love, I have just lost the loml and all I wanna fucking do is hold him, hug him, and kiss him one more time. Even though I hate the way he treated me. Fucking hell he has a hold on me. Like I know it was my decision, but I am sitting here all alone thinking bout wat I have done and fuck, am I regretting it? Yess...but like no. That dumbass boy came into my life, let me fall in love with him and fucking treated me like a fucking piece of meat. I cannot believe I allowed him to fully gaslight me like that. Making me always sound crazy, putting the blame on me and then never having the fucking nerve to open up enough to actually make me feel like he loved me. All I did was love him like I have loved no one before – unconditionally, **PERIOD.** He took the love I had for myself away from me and now I am empty af. The love that I had literally built up after so long of hating myself went ***poof*** just like that, I guess that means nothing to him ughhhh. I can't stop crying and I know that I won't be able to sleep tonight. My mind is everywhere atm, I have no one to talk to and I just want a fucking hug. Literally nothing can help the void inside my heart like I cannot even believe we just broke up, but like at the same time I can. The fucking audacity of this man, no, wait...boy, to stand there with tears in his eyes asking me if we could be friends with benefits, like bruhhh r u serious? 🤔🤔 Made me really see wat I meant to him. I know, I truly know that this was the right choice. Cuz of this relationship, idk who I am anymore. He broke my heart into a million pieces, and I know that he'll never feel sorry.

Love, Liam 💜

at Saturday, March 27, 2021 No comments:

Figure 1. the break-up (March 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.

April 2, 2021



at Friday, April 02, 2021 No comments:

Figure 2. it's my birthday (April 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.

HAPPY FUCKING BDAY TO ME. 🎂🎂 I am turning 21 today and for some reason, well I think we all know the reason; I feel like absolute shit. It also doesn't help when ur ex just wants to ruin ur day and send u a text message. Like ffs can u just let me enjoy my bday. That is all I fucking ask. Tomorrow is my party with my fam, and I am kinda not looking forward to it cuz I know so many people will be asking me where he is and why he is not at the party, and I am not ready to deal with that. I just wanna get drunk and eat food and laugh, but I know that I am just gonna be thinking bout this idiot. Also, fucking uni is starting to actually stress me out, I have no idea wat I am gonna do my thesis bout and I am just getting bombarded with questions and fucking things to do. It is too much for me. Wat else can I possibly think bout rn other than my ex. Feels weird even referring to him as my ex. I will have to start thinking bout it soon though, but today is deffs not the day. I need to chill, have a few glasses of Moscato and have fun. 🍷🍷 I shouldn't be worrying bout this on my day of birth. I just hope my day gets better cuz that text didn't start it off too great. At this rate, I won't be able to forget him. Just thinking bout seeing his face again is not sitting well with my anxiety, honestly, if he gets too close, I would probs punch him. I don't wanna even speak to this dumbass let alone see him. Why did I leave my stuff at his place? 😞😞

Love, Liam 💜

Happy Birthday, hope you have a great day. I also have some of your stuff I would like to give back to you when you have time.

Thanks! 😊 yeah i know just wasn't trying to think about it this weekend am out at my parents i will let u know when i am back at my place!

at Friday, April 02, 2021 No comments:

Figure 3. happy fucking bday to me (April 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.

April 11, 2021



*I was so fucking in love with u,
and u literally left me on my own,
and now I am wasting my life away drinking too much,
trying to numb myself enough to forget about u...*

at Sunday, April 11, 2021 No comments:

Figure 4. absolutely mortaled (passed out on K-Road) (April 11, 2021) Liam Mooney.

April 14, 2021

Ya'll why can't I stop crying? 😭😭 I have cried myself to sleep nearly every night for the past two weeks and on top of that now he won't even give me my stuff back. Apparently, I have to travel all the way to his place when he isn't even gonna be there and talk to his mother to get my stuff, when he knows I don't drive and like won't even fucking be there and brave enough to face me wtaf. First off don't say that ur gonna do something and then turn around the day before and be like **"oh well sorry it doesn't feel right."** Do u know wat doesn't feel right? U being an absolute selfish bitch. Also, u live in the most annoying place like it is gonna cost me so much money to get there and then I just have to turn around and go home. **FUCK OFF UR SUCH A PIECE OF SHIT.** Not worth the time and energy. 😭😭 Do watever u want with my shit, burn it throw it away idc. I cannot believe u did this to me; I was dumb to think u would actually think of anyone else but urself.

Love, Liam 💜



cries in gay
cries in gay
cries in gay

at Wednesday, April 14, 2021 No comments:

Figure 5. crying in gay (April 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

April 19, 2021

Sooooooo... I am a crazy bitch and I have decided that I am gonna spend this next year focusing on how fucking annoying this relationship was and the complexities of trying to get over this boy. It is all I can think bout so why not? If u expect me to do anything else when my heart has been absolutely trampled on, then u can fuck off. I am a sensitive lil bitch and here I am having to figure wtf my research methods are when my mind is shoved so far up the ass of my past relationship. **THAT'S IT, THAT'S MY METHOD, SHOVING MY HEAD UP MY ASS.** Lol no but actually fixating on the past too much probably is, fuckkk. It seems to be a repeating pattern tho, using my experiences to inform my practice and trying to overcome past trauma. If u had told me last week to do my thesis bout my ex, I would have been a bit hesitant, but I honestly think this is the best thing for me to do. This means the shit I research will be influenced by my relationship with my ex. 😊😭 I know that the only thing in this world that will help me get over him is to riddle my present life with wat has happened in the past. My ability to use the emotions I am feeling and express them through my practice is just so fucking helpful and precious to me. So why would I not use that to my advantage? I will just let my physical and emotional bodies fuck the life into my research and my life encounters to provide a focus for the project. It is an emotional release and whether or not anyone actually cares or watches or observes or listens doesn't matter to me, wat my practice does for myself is way more important. [5] Watever, I guess I am a glutton for punishment, actually I am a slutton for punishment hahaha. This process will look back at my past and make me grimace, be influenced by the shit that is going on throughout my day to day and question wtf will happen in my future. **OK WORKKKK!!** 🙌🙌 Let's use this exegesis as a way to delve into my emotions. Let's bring my experience into this research project cuz I know that it will deffs help me in the long run. No matter wat happens, this thesis journey is for me, this gori needs a bit of help moving on.

Love, Liam 💜

at Monday, April 19, 2021 No comments:

Figure 6. shoving my head up the ass of my past (April 19, 2021) Liam Mooney.

⁵ Because my life and art exist within the same realms, I often find my practice as a form of therapy. The personal context that lives so heavy within my work, allows my practice to help me build confidence over past trauma. Reflect, heal, and move past specific moments in my life, especially in regard to my previous relationship. This starts to open up about art existing as therapy or as a coping mechanism. Using art as therapy is less about the finished product. The therapeutic sides of artmaking lie within the perseverance to be vulnerable and tapping into potential areas of yourself that are difficult to verbalise. Using art as a creative outlet, helps people better express their feelings and gain resilience no matter what struggle they may be going through. Even though my struggles may not be as heavy as others, I still utilize the ability and platform I have within this University institution to help better myself. Also, with the hope of inspiring others to be comfortable with being vulnerable to potentially help themselves also.

See: Kathryn J. Wright, "ART THERAPY A STROKE OF THE BRUSH.," *Journal of Nurse Life Care Planning* 21, no. 1 (2021): 39–43.

April 20, 2021

I woke up today and I woke up with a fucking purpose. The way to get the ball rolling in this project is to start reflecting on everything that has happened in the past year and see wat I can use. Wat I did today was something I like to call a *memory collecting process*, where I try to remember every interaction of my previous relationship that could come to this little brain of mine and plot them into an excel spreadsheet. Yeah, that's right, an excel spreadsheet. By reducing my relationship to a set of numbers that acts as a set of data to experiment with surely, they have to take my research seriously, right? Pretty pathetic really. **HONESTLY, I AM JUST AN OBSESSIVE BITCH.** A bitch who enjoys a good fucking spreadsheet alright. Like I know this is a bit much, I can see that now. However, doing this really made me aware of wat was going on in the relationship and also where we may have dropped the ball. **YESSS, "WE!!!"** Cuz fuck, I ain't taking all the blame for everything. 🙏🙏 Doing shit like this that looks into my past experiences, is gonna help generate the research for this project. I feel like today was my data collecting era, like I recognise this process as a framework for wat's to come. I can use these numbers to refer back to, run experiments, investigate, analyse and watever else all those other sciency people do, and then maybe come to a, conclusion? Oh god that seems like thats gonna be a fucking mission, I did say maybe alright. So, don't hold me to it. With the help of my records, bank statements, text messages, and photos I collected a set of 272 co-ordinates recognizing spaces we had occupied – sexually, romantically, emotionally, and virtually. I like using co-ordinates [6] in this way to remember these memories cuz although I like to be quite public bout wat, I am calling this *process of healing*, I still wanna have a sense of privacy for myself, my ex, and the relationship. The co-ordinates are my way of connecting my interactions to the wider public as I go bout my life in this world as a queer man surrounded by too many straight people. This process is a bit fucked really, I am using wat I can remember and have nothing else to go off of, so naturally I dramatized a lot of shit haha. I couldn't help it alright lol. [7] It took me all fucking day long to go through each moment of the relationship, make a timeline and then find out each co-ordinate on a map, I literally didn't think it was gonna end. Just like my relationship hahahaha...RIP. 😞😞 I am gonna be honest, there are probs a few interactions I might have *accidentally*, forgotten, I don't wanna think bout those stupid moments. I really don't wanna remind myself. **CAN'T A BITCH HAVE A BIT OF PRIVACY.** I am sure as hell entitled to a little bit of that at least. Collecting this data now while things are fresh in my mind and while the break-up is still raw allows me to let out a lot of my pent-up emotion. I know it's probs not the healthiest thing to do but I am deffs not the healthiest person. Wat I am though is someone who holds a fucking grudge. But I aint sorry bout it.

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 7. memory collecting process (April 20, 2021) Liam Mooney.

⁶ Spelled this way throughout the project - using the '-' to emphasize the (co), meaning together, partner or equally. These spaces were occupied by both my ex and me.

⁷ I categorised this as personal data from the relationship. It gave me the ability to reclaim the time and love lost. The data provided me with a structure to implement healing methods, and to create an intimate and confident space for myself within my research. Often, in collecting data, researchers in many fields ask people to keep a regular record of their experiences; this can help them capture substantial data around personal events, feelings, and beliefs in an unobtrusive way. This is called Diary Method. Ruth Bartlett and Christine Milligan elaborate on this method and the ways in which recording events as and when they occur for research purposes, enables participants to gather data for a long period of time and to reduce bias when reflecting on the past. The approach I took was different in that I utilised my memories. In this context, a strong personal bias has sometimes provoked me to alter what had happened. This raises important methodological questions around how my own bias had already started to affect this project.

36° 51' 8.483" S	174° 45' 56.54" E	Lied to him about meeting
36° 49' 56.947" S	174° 47' 46.588" E	Met him for the first time
36° 38' 14.673" S	174° 44' 43.52" E	First date, played pool and bowling (pretended I was shit at pool idk why)
36° 49' 56.947" S	174° 47' 46.588" E	Said goodbye for the first time date over
36° 51' 13.961" S	174° 45' 57.656" E	First time I realised this boy is interested in his own things not really caring about mine (intresting thought)
36° 51' 13.961" S	174° 45' 57.656" E	Told me he had a fight with his dad was surprised at his vulnerability towards me
36° 50' 30.093" S	174° 46' 3.775" E	Met him for second date
36° 47' 24.931" S	174° 45' 50.992" E	He played me something in the nokocho trying to act all cool and shit
36° 50' 53.229" S	174° 45' 58.831" E	The don for dinner
36° 50' 53.229" S	174° 45' 58.831" E	Confessed my love for KPOP - we were watching the kpop random dance
36° 51' 6.545" S	174° 45' 55.571" E	Watched the Wolf man finally felt like he was doing something nice for me whether he liked it or not
36° 51' 13.961" S	174° 45' 47.515" E	He asked for my opinion about an iphone case he needed to buy one
36° 50' 34.767" S	174° 45' 42.242" E	Went for a drink
36° 50' 24.606" S	174° 46' 7.549" E	Walked around a bit took him to my favourite place felt comfortable doing that
36° 50' 32.089" S	174° 46' 3.531" E	Waiting for his ferry, told me I looked like a bruised banana and when we said goodbye I really wanted to kiss him.
37° 10' 22.568" S	174° 47' 4.845" E	He told me my work was great and that I am talented AS
36° 49' 50.911" S	174° 47' 34.053" E	Went to his place and it was out first kiss
36° 47' 15.539" S	174° 46' 20.293" E	Ate dinner
36° 47' 12.817" S	174° 46' 28.539" E	He refused to hold my hand in public and I was a bit annoyed it felt like he was embarrassed idk
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	Noticed that he kinda only really cares about himself a little bit. I just moved into my new place.
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	He told me that he had a girlfriend in 2018
36° 50' 57.132" S	174° 45' 55.47" E	Met outside starbucks
36° 51' 26.966" S	174° 45' 36.601" E	Had a drink together then walked all around kroad holding hands because apparently that is more comfortable for him and no one is there to see us he knows
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	Went back to my place and we chilled
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	We had sex for the first time (we both weren't really planning on it but it happened)
36° 51' 16.428" S	174° 46' 2.986" E	Went for coffee in the morning
36° 50' 41.439" S	174° 46' 2.387" E	He had to buy clothes and spent like \$200 on it and I was surprised at how much he just throws money around
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	He told me I was beautiful for the first time
36° 49' 50.911" S	174° 47' 34.053" E	I met his mum for the first time.
36° 49' 44.428" S	174° 47' 51.588" E	Nicolino's, this was our first date in downport and he wasn't afraid to be seen with me I felt good about that.
36° 49' 50.911" S	174° 47' 34.053" E	Stayed at his place for the first time (worst sleep of my life)
36° 47' 14.751" S	174° 46' 21.335" E	Needed a coffee after that sleep
36° 51' 13.961" S	174° 45' 57.656" E	He helped me make my artwork to the Eden Arts Awards.
36° 52' 8.934" S	174° 45' 52.954" E	Eden Arts drop off artwork
36° 51' 13.961" S	174° 45' 57.656" E	Had to leave him to go see my sister at home she was in trouble I felt bad for just up and leaving him
36° 47' 21.408" S	174° 46' 22.352" E	Went to get Pizza (this date I remember and was super cute I don't know if just felt like we were together.) He hesitated paying and I just paid for it idk it him
36° 49' 50.911" S	174° 47' 34.053" E	Was going to stay at his place but decided that I needed to go home and get on with uni work
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	Called on the phone for the first time
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	Picked me up from my place to take me on a date
36° 52' 9.477" S	174° 42' 49.602" E	Had dinner before the movie
36° 51' 35.795" S	174° 42' 55.074" E	Drive in movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, was the cutest date every and I started feeling like I was fully falling for him
36° 51' 40.767" S	174° 46' 3.281" E	He smoked some weed in the car and I was kind of pissed off about it not going to lie it was starting to get a habit that was affecting me
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	He stayed at mine this night (he finally met my sister) was still a bit pissed about the weed
36° 51' 28.986" S	174° 45' 48.126" E	Refused sex because all he smelt like was weed and I was like no thanks
37° 10' 22.568" S	174° 47' 4.845" E	Made a really rude comment about people and the virus about shooting them
37° 10' 22.568" S	174° 47' 4.845" E	We had a call and I figured out that he loves Holden lockdown level 3
37° 10' 22.568" S	174° 47' 4.845" E	2 hour call
37° 10' 22.568" S	174° 47' 4.845" E	Told me "I missed seeing your eye roll and smile hahaha."

at Tuesday, April 20, 2021 No comments:

Figure 8. co-ordinates (relationship version) (April 20, 2021) Liam Mooney.

See: Ruth Bartlett and Christine Milligan, *What Is Diary Method?* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015), <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781472572578>.

April 27, 2021

It is day four of *initial break-up*. [8] I am so tired aye, this performance has me going through so many emotions. 🤔😭 Each number, each description I am kinda losing it. Lol even having to look at these coloured markers I received from that fucking dickhead for Christmas last year, just wanna chuck them in the bin tbh. I need to push tho, for however many days it takes me, I will return each day to analyse and relive these moments. Like I have a lot going on so I can only do it when I have some free time, I think that is why it is taking longer than I thought. Honestly, this is one of the hardest things I have done. **I AM ON MY THIRD CAN OF V TODAY AND MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO FUCKING EXPLODE.** I was gonna attempt to do it all in one sitting but I am fucking happy I didn't jeez. I knew my body would need to take breaks each night, recharge, refresh just cuz of how raw the break-up still is and how fricking emotional I can be. I just wonder how long it will take me to finish this, cuz at this rate it is physically and emotionally exhausting ughhhh. I can only drink so much fucking caffeine so let's hope this over sooner rather than later. 🕒🕒

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 9. *initial break-up* (April 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.

⁸ An installation and performance work where I isolated myself at certain parts of each day to systematically format the co-ordinates I had gathered, that represent the interactions I had with my ex. Laying on the desk; a pen, a pile of these co-ordinates printed out, my laptop, a pair of AirPods, a box of tissues, an energy drink and six coloured markers. The coordinates were dissected into sections: food, sex, emotions, significant events, first times, and positive/negative moments. I used coloured markers to categorise and distinguish between the numbers, often annotating them with a description or story if necessary.



at Tuesday, April 27, 2021 No comments:

Figure 10. day four of *initial break-up* (April 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.

April 30, 2021

In the end it only took me seven days, but I have officially spilled all the tea. Dissected, categorized, and annotated; I have a bunch of these co-ordinates and now I have to figure out wat the fuck I am gonna do with them. I look at all of these numbers and think to myself, am I crazy? 🤔🤔 I also look at them and think of all the time we spent together and all the places that I have been with this man. All now for nothing. Like I really put my heart and soul into this relationship and now I have to put my heart and soul into creating a thesis bout it. **SEEMS FUCKED UP RIGHT.** But how else am I gonna get the fuck over him? I could back out now, turn around and do something different, it isn't settled yet. **NO LIAM!** Stop being an idiot u actually need to do this cuz ur still hurting, and well it's time to put urself first. [9] And god did this performance help a lot with that. Not only did *initial break-up* initiate this project, but it also triggered a personal emotional release that I was hoping would happen when I first decided to start this journey. The rigid way I am formatting my previous relationship, just shows how fucking obsessed I am and how much I literally long for closure. I am hurting, I am upset, I am being vulnerable af, wat more do u want. I was able to find some sense of closure all thanks to spending seven days colour-coding my past so, thank god for that. [10] It's a good start. As fucking draining as it was remembering everything and crying a shit ton bout it, I got a lot out of my system. The tensions between wat I have already experienced and wat I will continue to experience or experience again will be interesting to unfold as the project develops. Time to be the drama queen I was born to be. 🤔🤔

Love, Liam 💜

at Friday, April 30, 2021 No comments:

Figure 11. all the tea is spilled (April 30, 2021) Liam Mooney.

⁹ *putting urself first* as proclaimed in the title of this exegesis, has been an interesting method I have been implementing throughout this project. Sounds complex when the expectations of academic research are based around being objective, especially regarding many subject areas. However, as an artist completing a Master of Visual Arts degree at Auckland University of Technology, I found it hard to neglect the personal gain driven throughout my research. Alongside other methods of reflection and healing, this practice-led project provided me with the ability to observe my actions, memories and everyday life and use it as fuel throughout the research to comprehend things that have happened in my past. It may have come across as being selfish, however, it provides others with the knowledge that artmaking and pursuing an art practice can help with mental health, identity, and a range of other areas where life may be proving difficulty. This shows the importance of personal experience within academic research.

¹⁰ This performance is just one example of how I research, and how the ways I research helped me develop my ideas throughout the project. I used these co-ordinates to travel between my past and present, with my memory having an even more significant part to play in my everyday life.

May 2, 2021

I have been thinking bout the importance *initial break-up* has had for this project, and wat is sticking with me is the reactions I was and am still getting. Setting up a desk, sitting down each day hurting my heart, head and hand and investigating the relationship has deffs created an interesting structure for the project. Especially how people were reacting to it. **DID THEY THINK IT WAS A CRY FOR HELP?** [11] This made me wonder, wat was happening when I wasn't there. Were people sitting down themselves, were they being nosy, or did no one actually care? [12] Where I was located in my studio was easy to come across like if u were walking out u would kinda walk past my area. [13] So I had a few people interrupt, naturally they would come talk to me and I mean I talked back to them cuz well simply I can't keep my fucking mouth shut. This made me wonder whether they new that they were actually situating themselves in my work. Wow, they were kinda collaborating with me unintentionally. 🙄🙄 I just realised that, damn hahaha. Not only did *initial break-up* captured my memories, it allowed me to figure out a bunch of shit I never thought about before. [14] I think it is a win-win imo.

Love, Liam 💜

at Sunday, May 02, 2021 No comments:

Figure 12. the aftermath (May 2, 2021) Liam Mooney.

¹¹ After completion, people were coming back to check if I was done. They were reading the co-ordinates and asking me questions. The isolated studio space I had provided for myself to get away from everyone, was coming across as an invitation to engage. Which was an interesting discovery as the performance was happening, it was almost like I had forgotten where I had installed the performance.

¹² This came back to the decision I made to take breaks in between each day of initial break-up. The absence of my body throughout the performance was just as important as its presence. What filled the empty seat was the potential encounter an audience or passerby had and the ability for them to invade my personal space. *initial break-up* started as a personal tool to begin the journey of getting over my ex, but because I installed it in a public/private setting there was potential for others to converse or interact with me and around me. This made me aware of an expanded public context that I further developed as the project continued.

See: Angela Viora, "To Be or Not to Be There: When the Performer Leaves the Scene and Makes Room for the Audience," *Performance Research* 22, no. 8 (November 17, 2017): 135–43, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13528165.2017.1433392>.

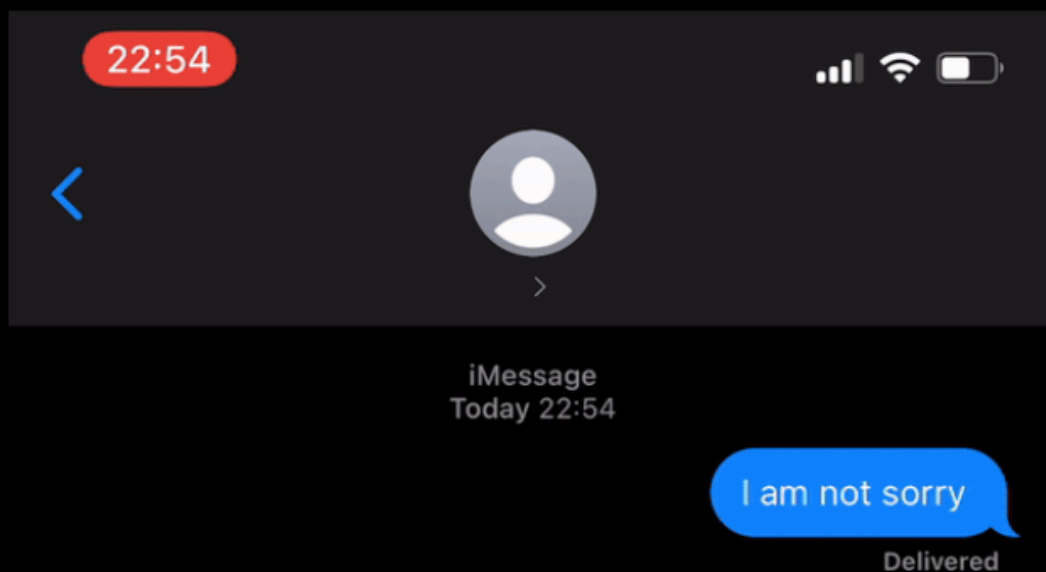
¹³ I installed the work in my studio at university. A public/private space. A public space that has controlled private access, only people with swipe cards could enter our studio space. So, a limited amount of people would potentially come across it.

¹⁴ An expanded public context.

May 7, 2021

Recently I have been thinking bout the words **"I am sorry."** Especially how easy it is to say them when u love someone. I often find myself apologizing for things that maybe I shouldn't and that was very prominent in my previous relationship. I just fucking realized that there were so many times, that I apologized to that boy for no apparent reason. Stupid right? 😞😞 But wat is annoying to me is the fact that I didn't realise it when I was actually with him, it took me a song and a few friends to make me understand that I was blindsided by love. **LIKE FUCKKK, CAN I NOT?** Why did I let that happen to me? Why was I saying sorry constantly over and over again? Making me seem like I was crazy. 😞😞 I have always been that person that makes my own decisions and do things on my own account. However, it seems when I fall in love with someone, I just submit to them and often question things I do and judge myself cuz maybe they aren't gonna agree or like those things bout me. I am literally sitting here in bed rn staring at my ceiling counting all the times I apologized to that dick. Fuck, I am regretting a lot of them. Lol, I am texting his number (I have been blocked ofc) **"i am not sorry,"** 34 times, the number of fucking times I apologized when I shouldn't have. Hopefully he doesn't see them, actually hopefully he does, and he just gets an influx of notifications. I still wanna be a nuisance in his life. He is doing that to me, even though its self-inflicted. **LORD HELP ME!!**

Love, Liam 💜



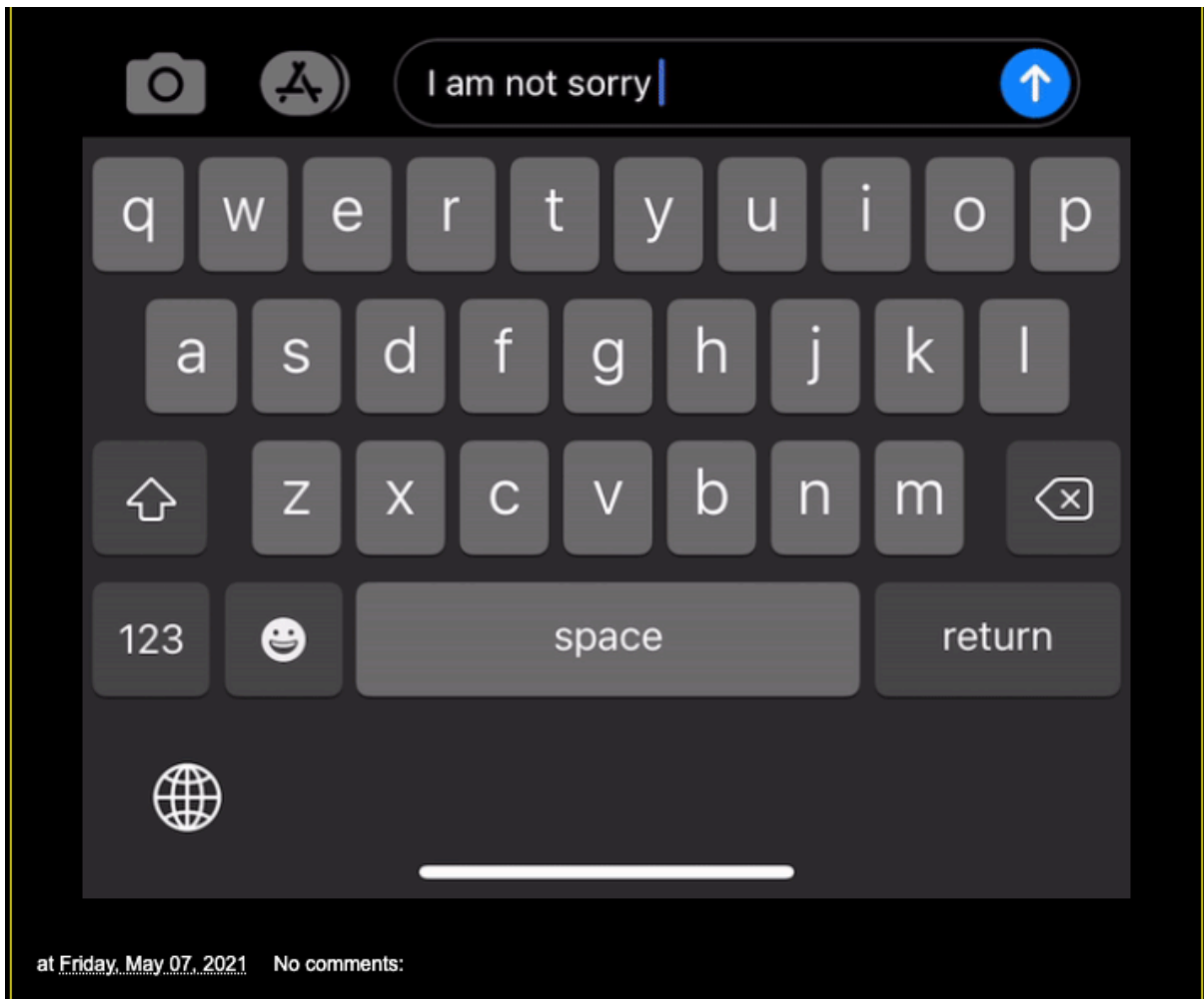
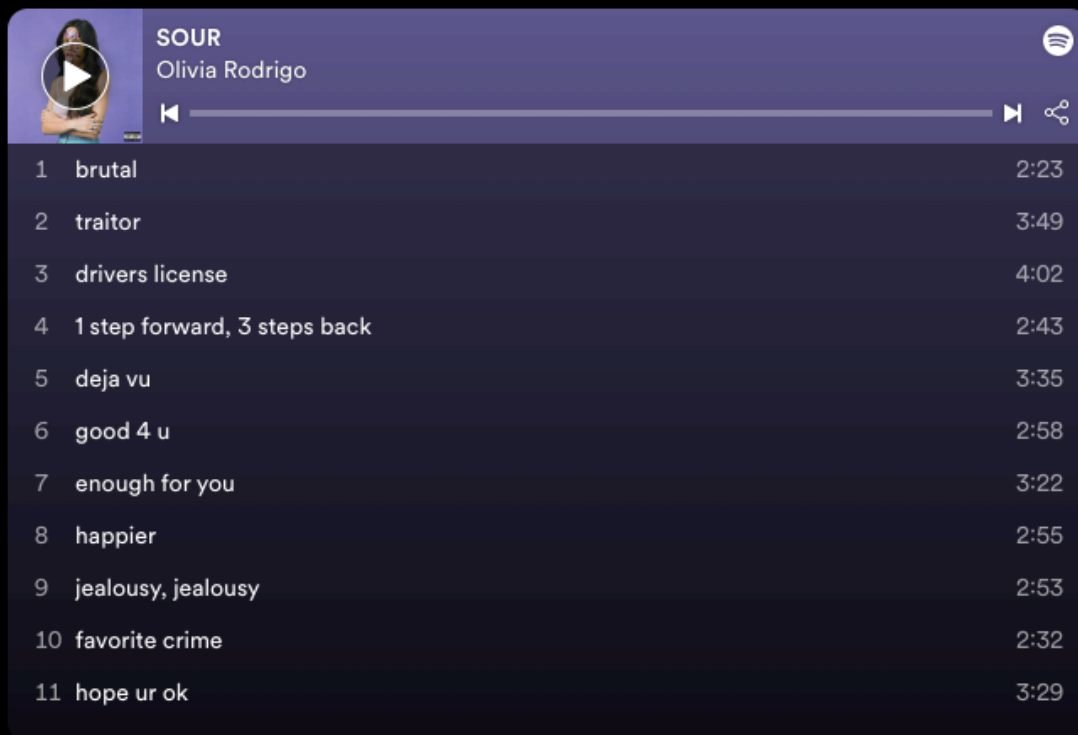


Figure 13. *i am not sorry* (May 7, 2021) Liam Mooney.

May 22, 2021

I just got home from work and literally had the worst bus ride ever. Miss Olivia Rodrigo had the audacity to bring out her new album *SOUR*, and I made the worst decision of my life to listen to it on my bus ride home. Music is something that always gets me emotional and there are certain songs which will make me cry my eyes out. However, this whole album I kid u not, had me gasping for air and ugly crying. 😭😭 It was that bad, a guy on the bus literally asked me **"Are u alright? Do u need a tissue?"** I just stared at him and nodded my head, and he kindly handed me one. I had no words cuz I have never truly connected to music as much as I did with this, especially in relationship to love and heartbreak. Miss Rodrigo did me dirty and she came straight for my heart, and I know that this will be played on repeat for at least the next month cuz honestly, she has done way too much, and I am here for it. **OLIVIA RODRIGO IS MY SPIRITUAL ANIMAL.** Me and her are the same person. I know she is gonna get me through a lot this year. **STAN OLIVIA, STREAM SOUR.** 🍋🍋 Honestly, if u haven't listened to it, I don't know wat rock u are living under, go rn plz.

Love, Liam 💜



at Saturday, May 22, 2021 No comments:

Figure 14. *SOUR* by Olivia Rodrigo (May 22, 2021) Liam Mooney.

May 29, 2021

Yah gori finally got fucked last night!!!! This beautiful man came over to my place at 10:00 pm and when I tell u we fucked all night, we fucked all night. 😊😊 It has maybe been three months since I last got fucked and honestly it was probs the best sex I have ever had. To be specific, there was lots of passion, the dick was huge, **HE WAS THICCCCC**, he was rough but like not too much and he just had the best stamina, like he could actually keep up with me. He did have to leave early in the morning, ugh I wish he had stayed as we were cuddling for a bit, and it felt nice to be in someone's arms again. But I woke up this morning still wearing his singlet and he hasn't asked for it back. That surely means he is coming back guys, he has gotta come back, right? 🐱🐱 I feel fucking great that I finally met up with someone as I literally thought I would struggle getting back out there, but I think I am ready for it. Is it time for my new hot gori era? **AHHH SO FUCKING EXCITED!!**

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 15. mans got stamina (May 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.



"Fuckkk, you give the best head."

at Saturday, May 29, 2021 No comments:

Figure 16. anonymous man #1 (May 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.

June 14, 2021

Coffee is something that I cannot stand without, I need that shit in my life. It is my fuel. ☕☕ Lately I have been thinking bout this idea of *my encounters* [15] and wat my everyday entails. Especially how it can inform my practice and also in relation to my past relationship. Drinking coffee is one of those tasks that I complete maybe 2 or 3 times a day. **BUT IT FUCKING REMINDS ME OF MY EX.** When I was with my ex, we used to have this lovely tradition of going to Starbucks before work, before going out, before driving, before anything. Honestly I didn't really give him a choice cuz I am a basic bitch and I only drink coffee from there. Which felt super cute to me cuz it soon became our thing, and I am a sucker for small moments in the relationship like that. But gorf this morning I have been going through it. I went to order my coffee today and I had a sudden flashback to our relationship. I nearly had to run out of the café cuz I just didn't wanna think bout him at all, I knew I would cry. After having a little moment to myself, they call out my coffee order by saying "*order for liar!*" I look around and just put my head down and walk to pick up my coffee cuz I know it is for me. Like it was actually written on there as liar. 🙄🙄 I can't fucking believe my barista just called me a liar and I really don't appreciate being attacked like that at 9 in the morning. But then to make it even worse, I get a daily message from my co-star horoscope app [16] saying that I am ready to move past all of the walls I have put up around my past. I literally didn't know wat to do with myself, I walked back to uni and now I am sitting in studio staring at the coffee just having a little crisis bout wat I am doing with this project. Like is this the right thing for me to be doing? I guess I have to listen to the signs, like stop being a sensitive little Pisces moon bitch and let's get the fuck over this boy. **UGHHHH COFFEE WAS SUCH A STRUGGLE THIS MORNING.** Anyway, Starbucks will remain to be my everyday thing; however, it will take me a while to get over that it used to be our thing too.

Love, Liam 💜

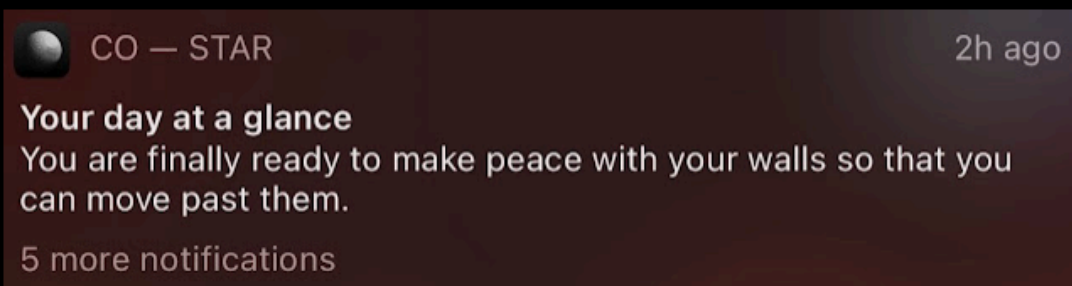
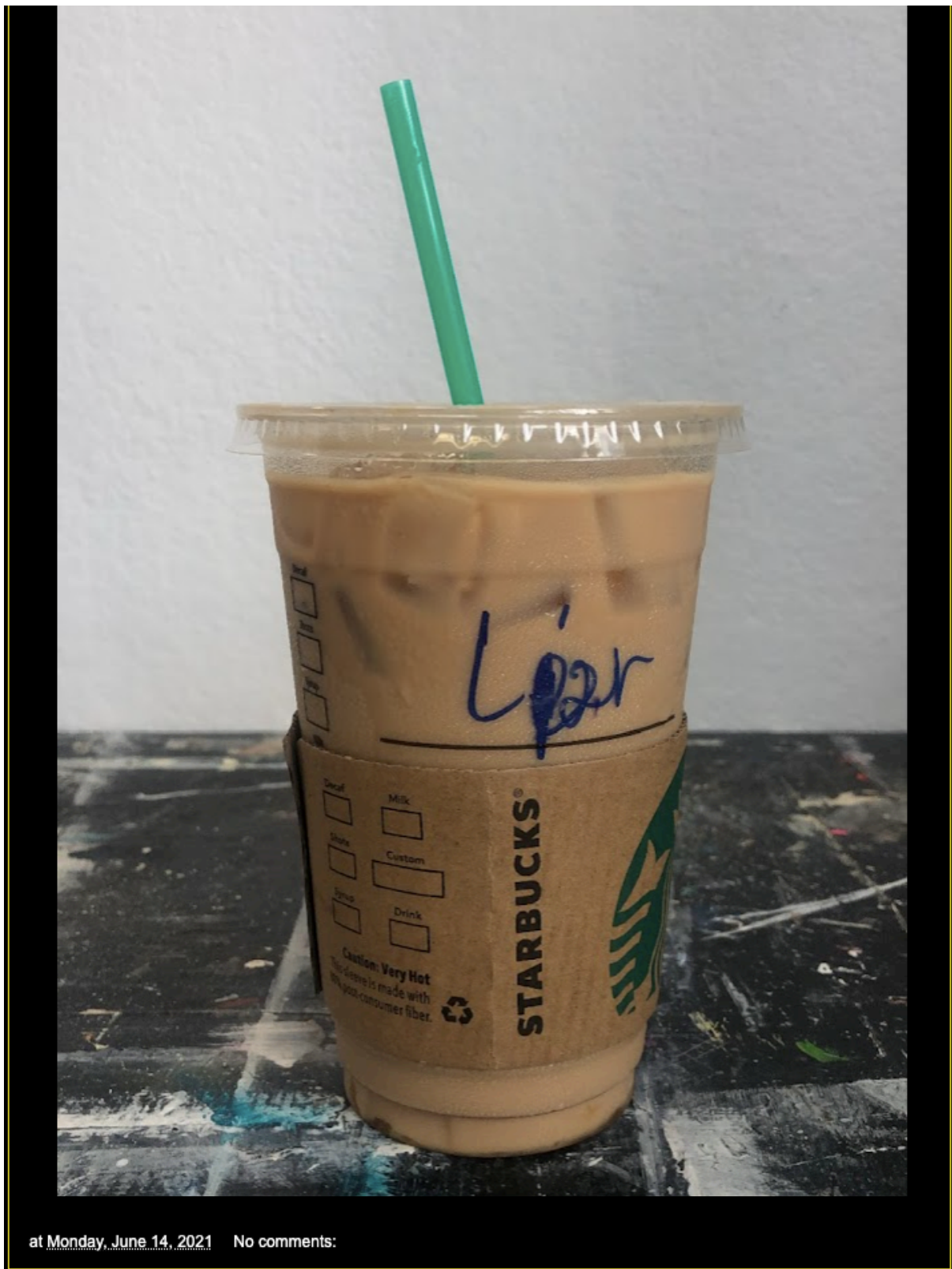


Figure 17. moving past my walls (June 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

¹⁵ *My encounters* act as an interesting framework for my practice. These are the moments that I have interacted with throughout the project, that have navigated my research. Whether it is physical, imaginary, or online these moments of encounter not only help with the process of moving on but develop the projects research based around what is happening in my life. John Dewey believed that when artmaking was separated from the everyday, as two different entities (only acknowledged for their beauty separately) it took away the power they possess to make meaningful social differences. This is how I position my experiencing within academic research. The personal narrative that penetrates my research, allows a queer story to be heard and, therefore, the exploration of *my queer encounters*. This term is not only based around me being an openly gay man, but more so to identify how my encounters sit within the realms of academia. Using the term *queer* to provide a place for my encounters (which act also as a form of research to assert a difference) does not, however, disregard their importance, especially within the wider notion of academic research.

See: John Dewey, *Art as Experience* (New York: Capricorn Books, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1958).



at Monday, June 14, 2021 No comments:

Figure 18. order for Liar (June 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

¹⁶ I find it funny that I am starting to let my horoscope dictate what is happening within my project. Does that then become objective? Or because it is based off my birthday, time and place I was born in, is it still subjective to my life?

June 15, 2021

8 cups of coffee. 8 cups of coffee I wasted on u. Whether it was cuz I was annoyed at u or if I loved u too much, now it just hurts thinking bout it – it is time for me to redeem the time I had spent with u. Today I installed *redeeming coffees*. a performative installation that explores 8 different interactions I had with my ex over a cup of coffee. Each cup different to the other, representing times where the coffee we drank together was, in my opinion, a total waste of fucking time. Personally, this installation is a step forward for the project in regard to my current experiencing and my encounters. It all stemmed from ordering a coffee yesterday and just feeling a gross compulsion to cry, spit it out, and throw it away cuz all I could think bout was him. 🥺🥺 A simple pleasure in life to enjoy a cup of coffee and I can't even do that. Like I should be able to order a coffee without it being such a big deal, I am gonna lose it if I am not caffeinated. **PUMP THAT VENTI ICED OAT MILK CARAMEL MACCHIATO INTO MY BLOODSTREAM AHHHHH.** The physical nature of the installation is playful and is installed into a pre-existing space. [17] Playing around with found objects, sentimental items, and quirky mugs, I created an installation that literally fucked the senses. I just brought a bunch of crap from my apartment into studio and had so much fun pulling apart each of these moments. Lol was actually really happy with how this turned out hehehe. 🥰🥰 Last minute as always but wat else would u expect.

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 19. 8 cups of coffee (June 15, 2021) Liam Mooney.

¹⁷ In comparison to Felix Gonzalez-Torres and his work *Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)*. Where the installation used wrapped confections to create a portrait of their partner, with the intention for each viewer to take away a piece of candy with them. The endless supply of candies weighs up to the same amount as his partner. So, what happens over time is the portrait diminishes and mimics their partner's unfortunate death, due to AIDS. Gonzalez-Torres used a piece of candy to create an intimacy between themselves, their partner, and the viewer. While the candy is eaten and the body begins to disappear, the love remains and moves throughout the viewers lives. Similarly, sitting down for a cup of coffee is an intimate moment, especially one shared between my ex and me. As I poured each cup of coffee and then continued to manipulate them, my senses brought me back to each moment. The simplicity of a cup of coffee and its intimate nature invited viewers into my memory. But the physicality of seeing it, smelling it, and feeling its heat similarly to picking up a piece of candy, created an interesting tension between me and the viewer, allowing them to witness my past through the physical objects. Not only did the studio smell of coffee, but alongside that pouring each cup enabled the intimate nature of each interaction to be played out. Through both humor and intimacy this installation allows each memory to penetrate the senses and share my coffee addicted stories.



Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.), 1991. Installed in *Objects of Wonder: from Pedastal to Interaction*. Felix Gonzalez-Torres. ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark. October 2019 - March 2020. <https://www.felixgonzalez-torresfoundation.org/works/untitled-portrait-of-ross-in-la>.



at Tuesday, June 15, 2021 No comments:

Figure 20. *redeeming coffees* (installation view) (June 15, 2021) Liam Mooney.

June 16, 2021



at Wednesday, June 16, 2021 No comments:

Figure 21. *redeeming coffees* (details) (June 16, 2021) Liam Mooney.

June 18, 2021

I have been reading this text by this guy, fuck I can't remember his name, anyway he talks bout this relationship between art and life. Especially bout how this relationship we have with our artmaking allows us to discover new things in our complicated lives. [18] The way my life presents itself as research is fueled by the reasons why I make things and the connection those reasons have to this crazy process I am currently pushing myself through. **WOW, LOOK AT ME ANSWERING QUESTIONS I AM POSING TO MYSELF ABOUT MY LIFE BEING RESEARCH.** 🙌🙌 Wat I am doing and implementing in the project and how people witness it is informed by this connection. [19] It also aspires to a broader personal journey of wanting to mend my broken heart ofc, like cmon who doesn't wanna get over their shitty ex. But with everything happening around me, I can't help but use it as inspiration for my making. While constantly being enravled with the shit happening in my present I am always trying to find connections to my past so that I can resolve some of this trauma from the relationship. The relationship between my life and artmaking is kinda romantic and mimics the relationship I am currently researching. I love thinking bout my practice being in a relationship with my life, not an easy one as most are but a long one that is filled with a lot of passion, emotion and a great amount of sex. 😊😊

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 22. art and life (June 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.

¹⁸ Richard Shiff comments on a metaphoric bridge between art and life, where life is a process of continuous culmination of knowledge through experience.

See: Richard Shiff, "Art and Life: A Metaphoric Relationship," *Critical Inquiry* 5, no. 1 (1978): 107–22.

¹⁹ Developing this further, Shiff suggests that the relationship between art and life is metaphoric. This explores how artists move between two different worlds, that of life (our immediate experiences) or that of art (an established truth). The bridge between them allows art to reveal truths through particular process, methods, and techniques found in our experience. I am constantly operating along this bridge, where my research is modelled upon, and is, my life.

See : Ibid.



Figure 23. wtf are my research methods? (June 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.

June 21, 2021

Rightttt, let's talk bout this thing called *mesearch*. Ughhhh, this term has been brought up to me before, but I don't know how I feel omg. I have just been reading bout it, but I am trying to decide whether I actually like the term. [20] Like this dude uses it for their own research, but I just think it contradicts a bunch of shit I am trying to raise in this project. [21] Cuz I am queer and exploring my queer experience through my artmaking I constantly get categorized (which then comes with a side of fucking othering) as a queer artist. Now gori don't get me wrong I am very comfortable being labelled as a queer artist; it's more that sense of othering which leads to being looked down upon just cuz it's seen as different. Sis, I have been considered as other all my fucking life, however, my research does not need to be categorized the same way I am within society. But, how to avoid that? 🙄🙄 Aren't I already othering myself by coining the term queer in my research? **I AM IN A WEIRD POSITION AHHH**. Wat this person talks bout has relevance to the overarching question of how my queer experience has relevance and constitutes knowledge. But it opens up a lot of questions bout how else u assert difference without marginalizing. [22] At the end of the day, even tho *mesearch* might be an easier access to more fancy academic terms, it doesn't mean we need to disregard the fact that personal experience in research is just as important, **PERIODD**. 🙄🙄 Actually, I am just banning the word now, I need to stop saying it. I just wanna share my experience in the most authentic way, and I believe queering this exegesis process in other ways such as these blog posts is the perfect way to do it. So, that means I will continue to do that cuz I am wat? Sickening, thats right.

Love, Liam 💜

at Monday, June 21, 2021 No comments:

Figure 24. mesearch, ughhh (June 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁰ Queer interdisciplinary artist Mark Edward discusses the terms researcher researched/researched researcher and the duality of these roles. Edward focuses on how artists engage with reflective methodologies and the notion of oneself as part of research and the process of *mesearch*.

See: Mark Edward, *Mesearch and the Performing Body* (Cham, SWITZERLAND: Springer International Publishing AG, 2018), <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aut/detail.action?docID=5240707>.

²¹ Terms like *mesearch* within an academic setting potentially marginalize people for being honest about the personal influences that feed into their research. Sexual minorities can become victims of this, where academia emphasizes personal connections in queer research while denying personal connections in a heterosexual academic setting.

See: "What Is Me-Search? | Write Where It Hurts," accessed March 28, 2022, <https://writewhereithurts.net/2015/06/18/what-is-me-search/>.

²² Asserting difference without marginalizing may have something to do with intentions. The difference in how I situate my work as queer, or by using queer methodologies, compared to how others situate it as only queer, comes with the intentions behind it. I use queering to argue the importance of my queer intimate lifestyle within research. Whereas I believe others may use it to disregard queer experience as important and solely based off of sexual identity. It is a debate that can literally go round and round, however, I know personally that my project provides not only for myself but for other queer individuals too, beyond our sexualities.

June 25, 2021

I AM FUCKING PISSED OFF. Who the fuck does this cunt think he is? I am sorry but this is the second time he has tried/offered to give me my stuff back and has failed to follow through. This time apparently, I was being a bit harsh. 😞😞 Boohoo, I just said how I was feeling, and I wasn't in the best headspace to sit down and have a catch up as he called it. I did not fucking break-up with u to get a message three months later to be like let's catch up and see how each other are. **I HONESTLY COULDN'T GIVE A FLYING FUCK WHAT U ARE UPTO.** U ruined ur chance multiple times. If that upsets u then that sounds like a u problem. U upset me when u gaslit me, when u asked me to be friends with benefits just after I broke up with u, when u tried to get one last fuck from me when I broke up with u, when u said u loved me but never actually made me feel like I had received an inch of ur love and when u never wanted to get to know my friends. So, u can fuck off with ur catch up u asshole. Block me, I couldn't care less, I am not sorry for wat I said, I don't wanna see ur raggedy ass and if I do u better watch the fuck out. Ur scum, a piece of shit and a terrible person, no wonder u can't maintain a relationship. U act confused why people keep leaving u when u know the exact reason. **U NEED TO CHANGE UR FUCKING ATTITUDE.** 😞😞 Stop making excuses and stop being so fucking childish. I am not falling for ur tricks cuz I know u haven't had better sex with anyone else since u left me, and that is all u want. U ain't getting near this bussy, go fuck urself u absolute fucking disgrace to humanity. 🙌🙌

Love, Liam

This person is unavailable on Messenger. [More options](#)

at Friday, June 25, 2021 No comments:

Figure 25. the blocking (June 25, 2021) Liam Mooney.

June 26, 2021

As I have been writing this blog, I have noticed how fucking helpful it is. Not only for myself as someone who needs to share their emotions but more so cuz I don't have to worry wat others think bout wat I am fucking saying. I don't need that kinda judgement in my life aye. My supervisors and I have been talking bout how this *blog voice* as I like to call it, will function within the thesis. Will it be something that I refer to in the document? Will it act as the exegesis content itself? Will I just keep it all to myself and write more academically? Who fucking knows? But in the back of my mind, I know I am wanting to avoid having to write formally as much as possible not just cuz I find it hard, but also cuz why do I have to? 🤔🤔 This is wat I love bout using past experiences as research, it opens a lovely door to the way academic research has a chokehold on our expectations. **ESPECIALLY WITHIN A UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE.** 🙌🙌 However, as always, I wanna come in and fuck everything up. I just love questioning the rules or expectations set out for us. That is just the rebellious person I am. Nahhh, to me it is more bout the importance of my personal experience being recognized as a way to provide knowledge. Blogging and documenting experience acts as a category of knowledge, it is raw and fucking interesting. To me it is the best way to research. [23] I can share wat I wanna share when I wanna share it and at the end of the day it comes back to helping me move on. Ughhhh this is why I love wat I do. 🥰🥰 The blog has and will continue to be a buffer between my experience and my practice. Focusing on bringing my offline and online experiencing to a specific online platform. Being utterly myself and just queer af has allowed this blog to go beyond being just a personal record for my crazy life adventures. Using something as intimate as taking a look back at a previous relationship has given room for my experience to navigate my practice. An artist I think about when I talk like this is the amazing Sophie Calle. [24] Just her ability to let everyone into her life, with so much fucking sincerity and amazingness ughhhhhh, I am obsessed with her. **SHE IS AN ICON.** We are both over here trying to get over some shit and we do it in such different ways, but underneath that, being so public with our healing is something we have in common. I am gonna share my life and I wanna share cuz it is my healing process and I am gonna do it in ways I feel comfortable in.

Love, Liam 💜

at Saturday, June 26, 2021 No comments:

Figure 26. the blogs function (June 26, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²³ Blogging has been developed from the handwritten diary, but today is still questioned whether it has the same significance, especially in relation to a public/private discourse. The parallels between how blogs are viewed within academic research and the acceptance of one's true identity are perhaps an issue. Both require the author/person to be authentic and true, not only to a spectator but to themselves. This was an interesting discovery whilst writing the blog itself, because I never once questioned the private nature of what I was posting, similarly to the way I don't question my identity; only focusing on how my experience is a link between online and offline worlds.

See: Rak, "The Digital Queer."

²⁴ Sophie Calle's *Take Care of Yourself* was orchestrated for the French Pavilion of the 2007 Venice Biennale, using a range of media to explore "the conditions and possibilities of human emotions." The basis of the project was surrounding a break-up letter they received by email; they curated photographic portraits, textual analysis and filmed performances to create an informed body of work. *Take Care of Yourself* opens up ideas surrounding love, heartache, identity and intimacy. Probably frustrated at the casualness of how their break-up was initiated, Calle decided the best way to take care of themselves was to contact all of the women they admired and have them offer their

responses to the letter through a medium of their choice. One hundred and seven women from many realms of life have taken this letter. By reading it, performing it and transforming it, they pursue the feelings it contains and the emotions it evokes. The installation flooded three different rooms where images scaled the walls, a set of videos played one after another, and this letter was being expressed in an array of different physical/virtual forms.

See : “Stretcher | Features | Sophie Calle at the Venice Biennale,” accessed June 13, 2021, https://www.stretcher.org/features/sophie_calle_at_the_venice_biennale/.

See also: “Sophie Calle: Take Care of Yourself – Press Release | Paula Cooper Gallery,” accessed May 18, 2021, <https://www.paulacoopergallery.com/exhibitions/sophie-calle-take-care-of-yourself/press-release>.



Take Care of Yourself, 2007. Installation view of French Pavilion at 52nd Venice Biennale. Sophie Calle. <https://artreview.com/history-lessons-7-april-2020-brian-dillon-sophie-calle-interview/>.

July 29, 2021

I woke up this morning with a tear in my eye, one year ago I met my ex for our first date. Wow, time does really fly by when ur in luv. I remembered how nervous I was cuz I hadn't been on a date in so long, and I remember doing so may dumb things to make it seem like I was better or cooler for some reason hahah. I remember him saying **"I am in the brown sedan with mags,"** and me literally losing my mind trying to figure out wat a sedan was and wtf mags were. **I MISS HIM TODAY.** As much of a pain he has been in my ass these past few months, I know this is out of sudden emotion but truly I do miss him. 🥺🥺 It also doesn't help that I am sick af rn, I feel like absolute crap and cannot even get out of bed, I had to go to the doctor and everything, maybe I am just lovesick ugh but in the worst way. This is not helping to get anything done cuz I have so much due for uni, and just also sitting in bed all-day thinking bout this idiot is not healthy either. I just miss spending time with him, cuddling him and talking bout the stupidest things. **TODAY IS THAT RARE DAY I ACTUALLY FUCKING MISS HIM.** The fact that he still has a hold on my heart annoys me so much though. I don't wanna wake up crying anymore, I just wanna move on, but it is proving more difficult than I originally thought. 🥺🥺

Love, Liam 💜

29/07/2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Mr Liam Mooney

The above named:

Was seen and examined by me today.
In my opinion is/has been medically unfit for
work from 29.07.21
He/she should be fit to return to work on 02.08.21

Yours sincerely

at Thursday, July 29, 2021 No comments:

Figure 27. love sick (July 29, 2021) Liam Mooney.

August 3, 2021

I told a lie today, and it reminded me bout all the lies I told u cuz I didn't wanna hurt ur feelings. But it also reminded me why I told them, to make sure our relationship was okay cuz I knew if I told u how I truly felt bout the things u said to me, u would say I am crazy and never listen. Lies, lies and more lies. 🙄🙄 We are both liars, don't deny it. U expect me to believe all the things u said to me were truthful...**GO ON LIE AGAIN.**

Love, Liam 💜

at Tuesday, August 03, 2021 No comments:

Figure 28. lies, lies and more lies (August 3, 2021) Liam Mooney.

August 9, 2021

If u don't already know, well I have a small obsession with K-pop. 🥰🥰 It started in 2016 and now I guess I just can't stop. I am deffs not as bad as I was in my teenage years but like I could be better. Anyways, I have been thinking a lot bout a concert I went to in 2019. Bout how I got to see the actual love of my life and even got to touch hands with him. **HIS NAME IS SHOWNU.** I have always been in love with him and well everyone knows it. Even ask my friend Hila, it is literally how we met. She spotted a picture of him on my workbook in the first year of uni, tracked me down and we have been friends ever since. Wat is interesting though bout this little obsession is that when I bring it up to my potential partners the reactions I get are so funny. I have been thinking bout the way my ex looked at me when I told him that I liked K-pop and this celeb in particular. He stared at me and said, **"I will never compare to that Korean boy u obsess over."** I just stared back at him and let out a little chuckle. 🥰🥰 First off, I found it a bit cute that he was being a little jealous but the more I said the more annoyed he got. I was like oh shit he actually is jealous, which lead him to start looking down at the music I listen to and my celeb crush. I was really shocked cuz like, I had never really had this kind of reaction before, and it made me feel a bit bad. Cuz well I was the one who made him a little upset. Recently I have been thinking about the way I made him feel. I have a crit coming up soon and cuz this is on my mind, I might just make something bout it. Something along the lines of why was my ex so jealous of a celeb crush when I was literally dating him? I did have a supervision today and well I am not vibing with wat we were talking bout. I don't think I am gonna listen to my supervisors and pursue this idea a bit more. Hahaha, I don't mean to be ungrateful it is more that I just need to do the opposite of wat they say sometimes, and then I am more invested into wat I am doing. Well speaking of which, I better head off and start making this work, I literally have today. **WISH ME SOME FUCKING LUCK.** I need as much as I can get, let's hope my supervisors don't roast me. 🙏🙏 Let me fangirl in peace plz.

Love, Liam 💜



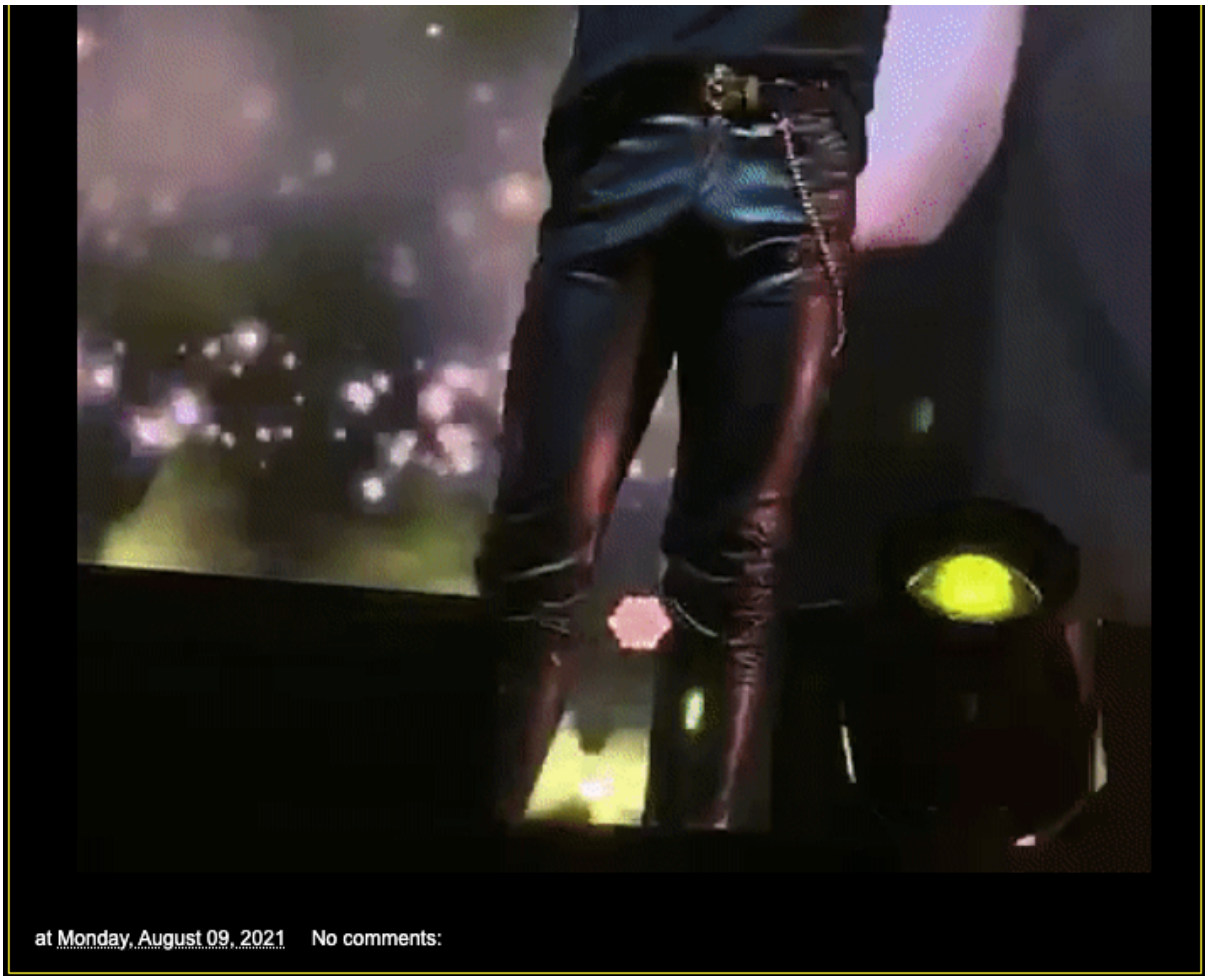
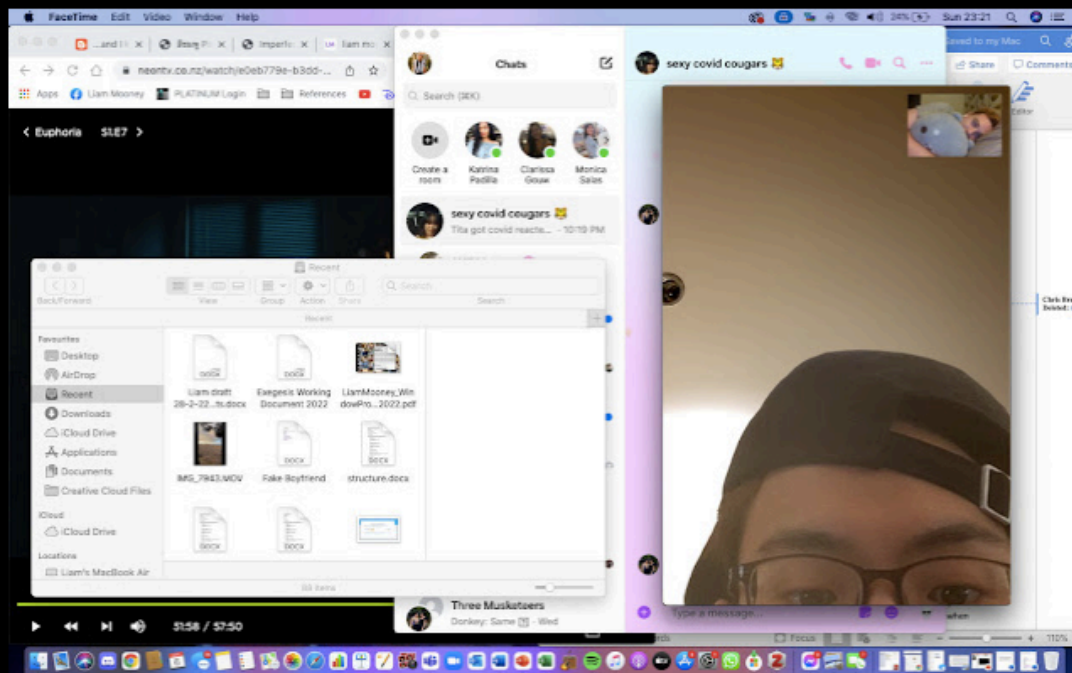


Figure 29. *why are you talking about Shownu again, now?* (August 9, 2021) Liam Mooney.

August 10, 2021



Practicing for when me and my mans Shownu get together and video call every night before we go to sleep, gotta love photoshop.

at Tuesday, August 10, 2021 No comments:

Figure 30. facetime with bae (August 10, 2021) Liam Mooney.

August 17, 2021

WE ARE ALL KINDA FUCKED, Miss Rona decided to resurrect from the dead and now we are in another lockdown. 💀💀 So, I am stuck in this tiny shoebox of an apartment until we are allowed the fuck out. I don't know how long these restrictions will be but since I have been in the city and fucking around, I don't wanna go back to my parent's place until I am sure that I am covid free. But before we can even think of that, I am stuck here for the next two weeks questioning everything I am doing with my life. We shall see how that turns out cuz I know that I will probably be a mess by the end of the month. Like I have just been blasting my music so loud and dancing around today cuz I am already going a little cray. I wish this lockdown hadn't of come rn, cuz I don't know wat that means for my project. My current research has come from everything that has been happening around me. [25] When it comes to a halt just like it has, I guess I have to find ways to be inspired by the boredom of lockdown. **THIS IS GONNA BE A FUCKING STRUGGLE FOR ME.** I won't be really experiencing anything outside of just my apartment, the supermarket and online. However, maybe there is something there, who knows I might make a new Tinder account, let's see who is gonna hurl judgement at me, that's always fun. I think for now I need to make sure I am keeping safe. 🙄🙄 I don't wanna get sick and I think maybe when I can go see my family, I might be able to spark up some new research. Cuz at this stage it is looking very lack luster.

Love, Liam 💜



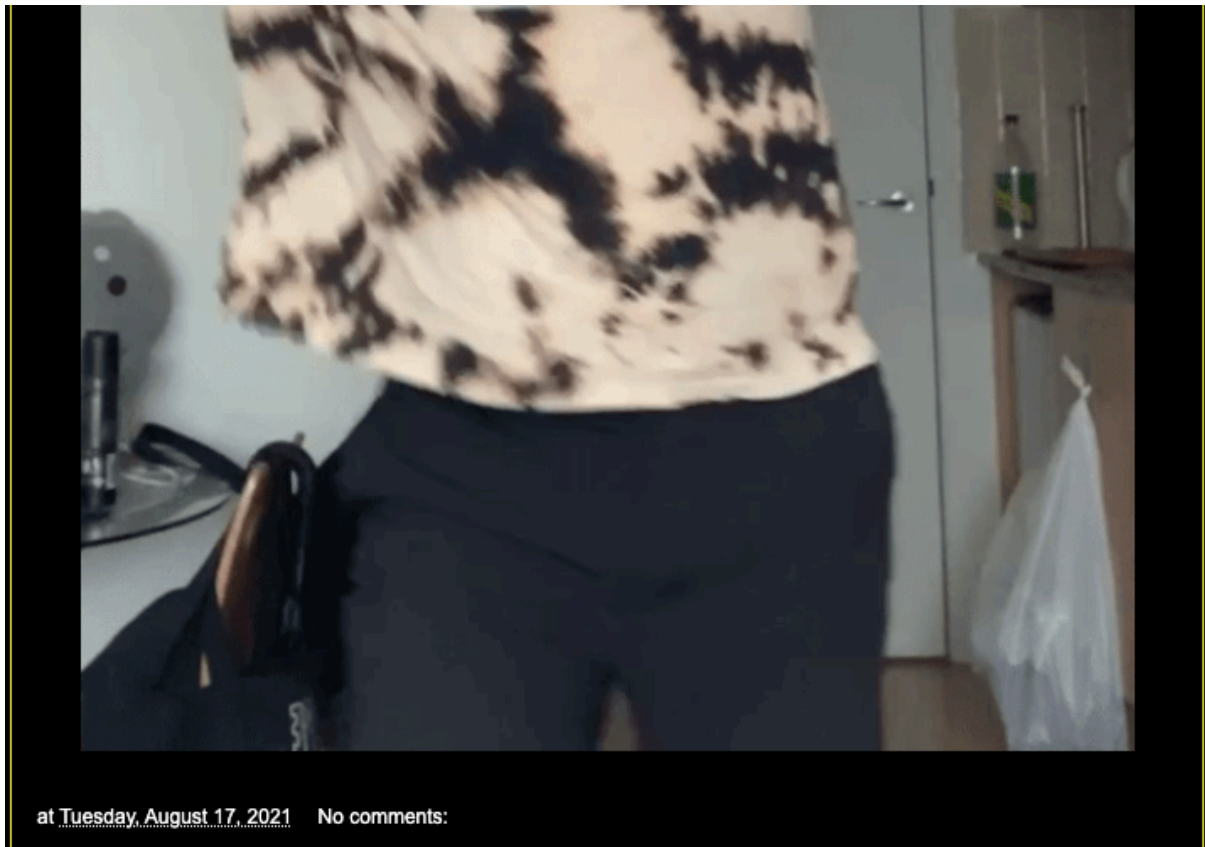


Figure 31. *Bad Boy* (lockdown version) by Red Velvet (August 17, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁵ With the lockdown forcing my experience to online spaces and only selected moments in the flesh, it moved a lot of my research into online spaces too. This wasn't necessarily a bad thing it was more that I was unsure of where the project would lead to. This worried me as I was really enjoying the physical nature of a lot of my previous works and, playing around with installation. Thinking about installation as performance to encompass certain memories through the playfulness of installation. I started to ponder on how installation can work in an online platform, whether I can apply the same playful methods I use in a physical space to an online or virtual space.

August 31, 2021

Today is the worse day ever ughhhhh today would have been our official one-year anniversary, like being boyfriends. One year ago, today was the day he asked me to be his boyfriend, well he didn't really ask, he already thought we were but like didn't fucking tell me bout it ughhh. So, I just claimed this day as our anniversary. **FUCKING HELL I AM STILL THINKING ABOUT HIM.** Not only is this the first time I have cried bout him in the past month but it's the first time in a while that I wish he was actually with me rn. I really wish we were in lockdown together, cuz I am also worried bout him. 😞😞 I know the last lockdown wasn't that great for him and he really appreciated our daily convos, ughh I hope he is ok. I go through mood swings just bout whether I luv him or hate him or both, he has been such an idiot lately, but honestly my feelings towards him are still there damnn. Today would have been an important day for us but here I am all alone stuck in my room with a bottle of Moscato and a slab of chocolate. I really just want a cuddle I am a little bit tipsy and when I drink, I get really touchy feely. But I have no one. **LITERALLY NO ONE.** 😞😞 Should I text him? No, right? Maybe I will just send him a...

at Tuesday, August 31, 2021 No comments:

Figure 32. one year anniversary (August 31, 2021) Liam Mooney.

September 4, 2021

I shaved all my hair off today, well my mother shaved all my hair off today. 🙏🙏 I needed it gone, to start fresh, I came home to my parent's place after having done nothing but eat, watch movies and cry for the past couple of weeks and now I have a supervision in two days, and I have to make it look like I have done something. When in reality I am struggling big time. Anyway, my head feels a lot lighter, and I love when I get a buzz cut, it makes me look like idk ***makes grrrrr noise*** 🤔🤔 if u get wat I mean. I am deffs feeling a lot better emotionally, staying in that apartment made me go a bit insane and I started to worry bout myself a lot, and I could tell my family were too. I thought being alone would enable me to really focus on some of the ideas in my project, but it really did the opposite. I felt like I was drowning in my own thoughts and then spacing out constantly when I was trying to concentrate. Now that I have no hair and am a bit happier than I was a couple days ago, it's time to actually focus on how I am gonna use this lockdown to my advantage in regard to my project. I really don't know wat the fuck is gonna happen, since all of my shit is in my studio. **LOVE THAT FOR ME RIGHT???** U know wat, I might actually take a break for a bit and focus just on my writing, researching, and reading. Or maybe I do just genuinely take a break, do I deserve it? Ugh maybe I will try to write something, reflect on wat is happening around me cuz I do need to make sure I am still doing something. It doesn't help when my project is my life cuz it comes with these moments when I am emotionally drained. [26] The way I feel often impacts wat I am researching or wat I reflect on. I might take this time to look at my current situation, hopefully something comes up and I can get on with it. 🙏🙏 But for now I am just gonna play around with all of my hair.

Love, Liam 💜



Me, looking in the mirror after my breakdown haircut



at Saturday, September 04, 2021 No comments:

Figure 33. goodbye hair (September 4, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁶ This was one of the hardships I constantly faced within the research project. My positive mental attitude towards the subject of this project slowly faded as I continued to delve deeper into my emotions and feelings towards the past. This was the only thing I was worried about when starting this journey, because I was working so closely to my every day, the art/life balance started to fade.

September 5, 2021



"My head, my heart are torturing me, yeah."

at Sunday, September 05, 2021 No comments:

Figure 34. *h(air)t* (September 5, 2021) Liam Mooney.

September 6, 2021

Wow, so I am feeling a lot of emotions rn. 😞😞 Someone just shared a song with me, and I am literally bawling again. Wtf is wrong with me omg, like can I get myself together plz. [27] The song talks bout saying goodbye to some when it might be hard, especially when it is the right thing to do. I mean like c'mon, look at the material. It really is the epitome of wat happened with me and my ex. I guess wat is interesting is that I haven't been really thinking bout him lately and well here I am back at square one thinking bout him again. I guess it just goes to show that this is how this process will be. One moment I will be over him and fucking other guys then the next moment I will be crying in bed, missing him. **UGHHH ITS SUCH A LOVE/HATE THING.** My mind can only handle so much also like its been so long since we broke up why am I still feeling like this ffs. Wat is even more annoying is that the person who shared the song with me was someone who I recently met online, and we were planning a second date, ironic really. I guess I will be falling asleep listening to this tonight. 😞😞 Remind me to put something cold on my puffy face tomorrow ughh.

Love, Liam 💜



at Monday, September 06, 2021 No comments:

Figure 35. love goes (September 6, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁷ Music has been a big inspiration for a few of my works. There is something about listening to a song and the emotions it evokes that drives me to create work around it. The ways in which music can evoke emotion is interesting, especially with lyrics. Going through something upsetting naturally allows us to understand songs that touch on sad moments in the musicians life. I feel like a lot of my experiencing happens with music around me and I am constantly listening to music depending on my mood. So naturally that has an impact on what I research.

September 22, 2021

THE BITCH IS BACK. After a few weeks of wat was supposed to be bliss at my parent's place, I am finally back at my apartment and honestly, I am in such a weird mood. I am happy to be back cuz honestly, I just felt like there was a lot of family drama and I needed some alone time, but over here, the vibes in this apartment kinda make me feel uneasy so I don't wanna be alone. 🙄🙄 I just wanna like stop doing this project bout this boy. I am really hating it rn, it is almost like cuz I am back where everything happened, his presence is still lingering. I am kinda getting sick of thinking bout wat we had done in the past and now I am so ready to like move the fuck on. This is where I am struggling to find ways to use that within my project and obviously still rely on the heavy emotions of this process. There is using wat happens in ur life as fuel and then there is abusing or exploiting it. I still need to make sure that watever I do, my safety and my health come first. Especially in these covid times, just waiting now for me to catch it. **I GUESS THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF MY NEW ERA.** Watch it last for a couple days hahaha, but hey, let's try living my best life. 🍑🍑

Love, Liam 💜

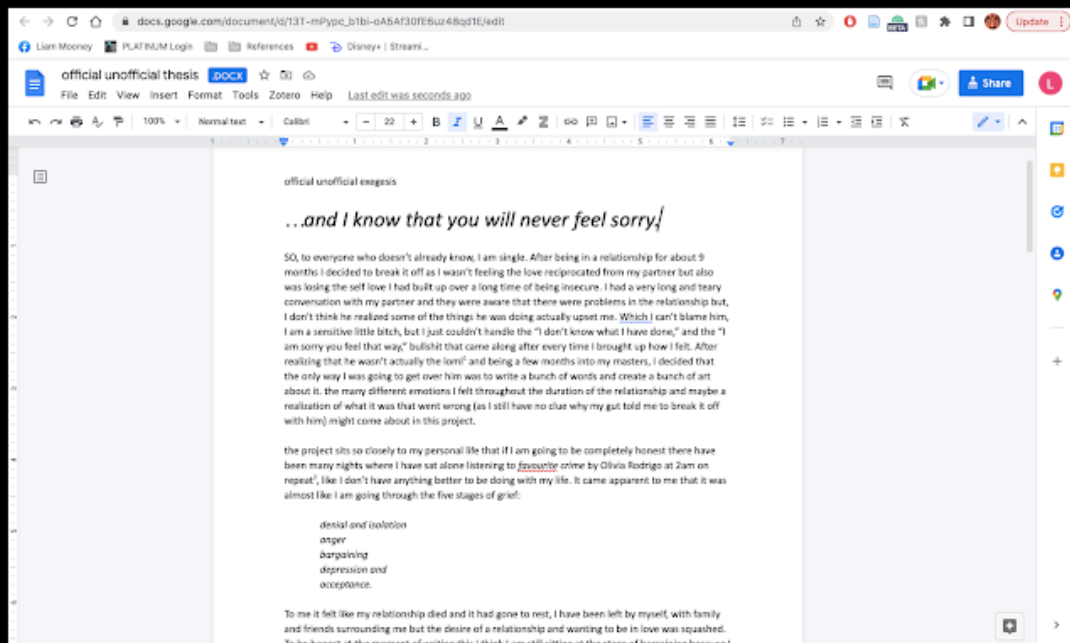
at Wednesday, September 22, 2021 No comments:

Figure 36. the bitch is back (September 22, 2021) Liam Mooney.

September 27, 2021

I am on a roll guys, like I had a supervision a couple of days ago, and now I just wanna write my whole exegesis gosh who am I. 😊😊 I have suddenly had the energy to actually put all my thoughts onto a piece of paper. I think it is cuz I have realized that this is my own project, and I should be doing wat is right for the project. Especially in relationship to wat I am researching, my life. This has made me think bout where the fuck does my gay af life sit within this academic research. Wat I started to write was wat I am calling the **"official unofficial exegesis."** All it fucking is, is me talking bout wat happened in the relationship, just blurting out all my thoughts. It has been really interesting in the sense of catharsis, just getting out wat I am thinking in my head into a document. I wonder whether I can write like this in my final exegesis????? **BIG QUESTIONS I HAVE TO ANSWER.** There is something bout making people read my unfiltered thoughts within the institute I am completing this master in that just feels so right. I guess these blog entries I am writing will help with that. I know I was considering it before but I will deffs use them in the future, I guess I just have to figure out how. For now, this document seems like a smart thing for me to do. I guess it starts to get the writing stages in the works since I am notorious for leaving everything important to the last minute. 😊😊 Even tho that does work most of the time I need to actually give myself enough time so I am not having mental breakdowns towards the end. I just don't wanna end up writing my exegesis the week before it is due, but honestly no hope there. **I SCARED MYSELF FOR A MINUTE THERE.** I wasn't being motivated to do anything and that was plainly my emotions towards the subject of the project, but now there seems to be a spark of inspiration and we shall see wat that means for the next coming months. I fucking hope I can pull something outta my ass.[28]

Love, Liam 💜



at Monday, September 27, 2021 No comments:

Figure 37. *official unofficial exegesis* (September 27, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁸ Throughout the body of this exegesis I have maintained an unfiltered and explicit voice. First off, because I believe that in order to explore the full potential my experience has in order to constitute knowledge, the reader must get the most accurate account of what happened. Secondly, because it

October 1, 2021

I decided it was time to uphold some of the promises I have made in my life. Some of the promises that I failed in fulfilling, especially the ones I made with my ex. I once promised this boy that we would watch all of the **MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe)** in chronological order together, just cuz he wanted to. Well, honestly, I actually really wanted to do it to, like I having been talking to my brother bout doing it for ages. Anyways, wat I decided to do, was just complete it myself cuz well the dumbass ain't coming back anytime soon to finish it with me.

😓😓 So, I created a viewing contract between myself, both past and present, committing to uphold this promise that I had made. This contract allowing me to get rid of the commitment I have to my ex, by completing it myself cuz well he sucks and obviously, he can't commit to anything properly. So I am gonna start tonight, and if anyone asks I am just gonna justify that this is my uni work and part of the project. Make it look like I am actually doing work lol hahahahah fml. 😂😂 I wonder if I will actually complete it, I am kinda tied to it, cuz if I don't then I will be just as bad as my ex. **THIS WILL MOTIVATE ME, I DON'T WANNA BE LIKE HIM.** I can't wait to start so I should go and do that. Might not hear from me for a bit.

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 38. MCU (October 1, 2021) Liam Mooney.

provokes the reader's experience as they are reading to give them my *queer experience*. The way the blog acts as a way for the reader to experience my life through writing comes about through the particular details shared and language used throughout – queering them. Using explicit language, common queer words and phrases like I have in the blog posts isn't common within academic research and writing, however it positions the reader in a controlled space. It provides a space free for interpretation but, perhaps, the inability to run away from the queer context I am touching on. The reasons behind rejecting some of the heteronormative ways of academic research, come down to the way I want my personal experience to be situated within this particular postgraduate degree. I am beyond conforming to ways in which we are expected to do things; instead we find ways to question the rigid structure forced upon us when we should have ability to communicate our practices the way we feel best comfortable.

Viewing Contract

This viewing contract is entered into by and between LIAM MOONEY (post break-up) and LIAM MOONEY (in a committed relationship). The terms of this agreement shall begin on 1ST OCTOBER 2021 and shall continue through until all specific terms of the contract have been complete.

The specific terms of this contract are as follows:

LIAM MOONEY (post break-up) shall watch all of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) in chronological order, without missing any viewing material that is vital to the whole plot of the universe (including the multiverse). This includes all movies, TV series and one shots, they shall make sure they wait until the credits are over in order to discover further developments of the continuation of the plot. The party shall not fall asleep or get distracted throughout watching where it allows them to miss any important information provided. This should be completed as soon as possible and will be monitored overtime as they are required to take a picture of the title scene in each of the films, episodes or short films they watch.

In consideration of the promises set forth herein, LIAM MOONEY (post break-up) agrees that they shall watch all of the MCU in chronological order in order to uphold promises and commitments made by LIAM MOONEY (in a committed relationship). Allowing them to be free of past commitments made to other parties that they are unable to let go of and complete since other parties contracts have been terminated. Both current parties are in agreeance that in order for them both to move on into the foreseeable future, this agreement must be completed.

This contract may not be modified in any manner unless in writing and signed by both parties. This document and any attachments hereby constitute the entire agreement between both parties. This contract shall be binding upon the parties, their supervisors, their successors, their family, friends and shall be enforced under the Laws of the State of HEARTACHE & OBESSIVENESS.

LIAM MOONEY (post break-up)
(Printed Name)

1ST OCTOBER 2021
(Date)


(Signature)

LIAM MOONEY (in a committed relationship)
(Printed Name)

1ST OCTOBER 2021
(Date)


(Signature)

at Friday, October 01, 2021 No comments:

Figure 39. viewing contract (October 1, 2021) Liam Mooney.

October 12, 2021

Fuck Grindr is a toxic place to be on rn. **LIKE WHY DO I GOTTA BE GAY FFS HAHHAHA.** It is shit when I am constantly being call a fat slut omg like why do guys gotta be so fucking rude. I can't even deal tbh. 🙄🙄 Not that I care cuz lol at the end of the day well I am a bit of a fat slut hehe. But like it just ruins the experience of trying to find a quick fuck, a mans to come over or maybe even a boyfriend. I know that wat they are saying comes with a sense of malice behind it. Like I can call myself a fat slut as a joke but like these bitches ain't joking around. I know that Grindr is mainly for hook-ups, but I think bout the fact that I found my ex on Grindr and well we dated for a while. There is seriousness inside of Grindr that some people aren't aware of. **[29] THE GAYS AREN'T ALL ABOUT SEX.** That stereotype is getting old. Anyways I just had that random reminder cuz lately I have been trying to get back out there more officially. It is going a bit shit if u can tell hahaha, watever...as my mother would say there are plenty of fish in the sea. 🐟🐟

Love, Liam 💜

at Tuesday, October 12, 2021 No comments:

Figure 40. why do I gotta be gay? (October 12, 2021) Liam Mooney.

²⁹ Do not believe that Grindr is a safe space. It is a space that is supposed to promote ease for queer (more specifically gay) encounters whether it is on a sexual or emotional level. The amount of hate and rudeness that comes alongside using it is disgusting. A safe space is in the name, the emotional and psychological feeling that comes with being a space that you are comfortable in, where there is a sense of belonging and power, especially to those who are seen as or labelled as minority. Grindr is apparently a queer safe space, as promoted, however, the way in which people act and speak to others is uncontrollable. Queer safe spaces start to open up discussions around control and uncontrollability. Through queering I can control the space that I position my reader or audience in. However, their interpretation and the ways in which they react or respond is beyond my control. I have full control on what I share and how I share it, but I cannot guarantee that the viewer will understand it within the same context I situate it in. I start to question whether an audience is necessary or whether I could limit who I share it with. Or does that make me insecure? If I am comfortable in myself, other peoples' opinions shouldn't matter. The idea of safe space, whether it is in my daily life or in my practice, goes beyond my own control. It seems to be dictated by how other people react which, as someone who is comfortable in their own ability to share, can be a struggle.

See: Gilly Hartal, "Fragile Subjectivities: Constructing Queer Safe Spaces," *Social & Cultural Geography*, June 8, 2017, 1–20, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2017.1335877>.

October 13, 2021

10:03 PM Wed 13 Oct

100%

< Notes

- ☒ One Shot: Agent Carter (1944)
- ☒ Agent Carter Season 1 (1946)
- ☒ Agent Carter Season 2 (1947)
- ☒ Captain Marvel (1955)
- ☒ Iron Man (2010)
- ☒ Iron Man 2 (2011)
- ☒ The Incredible Hulk (2011)
- ☒ One Shot: The Consultant (2011)
- ☒ One Shot: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor's Hammer (2011)
- ☒ Thor (2011)
- ☒ Avengers (2012)
- ☒ One Shot: Item 47 (2012)
- ☒ Iron Man 3 (2012)
- ☒ One Shot: All Hail the King (2013)
- ☒ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 1, Episodes 1-7 (2013)
- ☒ Thor: The Dark World (2013)
- ☒ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 1, Episodes 8-16 (2014)
- ☒ Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014)
- ☒ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 1, Episodes 17-22 (2014)
- ☒ Daredevil Season 1 (2014)
- ☐ Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)
- ☐ Guardians of the Galaxy 2 (2014)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 2, Episodes 1-19 (2015)
- ☐ Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 2, Episodes 20-22 (2015)
- ☐ Luke Cage Season 1 (2015)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 3, Episodes 1-10 (2015)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 3, Episodes 11-19 (2016)
- ☐ Captain America: Civil War (2016)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 3, Episodes 20-22 (2016)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 4, Episodes 1-8 (2016)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D: Slingshot (2016)
- ☐ Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D Season 4, Episodes 9-22 (2016)
- ☐ Iron Fist Season 1 (2016)

Day 13 of the MCU

at Wednesday, October 13, 2021 No comments:

Figure 41. *viewing contract* (official list) (October 13, 2021) Liam Mooney.

October 14, 2021



Yeah I read somewhere that the best way to deal with traumatic/painful experiences is to confront them and that writing them down in scrupulous detail is the best way to do that.

It puts everything in perspective and minimizes the chances that you over estimate or under estimate the source of the said trauma because over time memory tends to change and drift further from what actually happened

U r one smart bitch joey

at Thursday, October 14, 2021 No comments:

Figure 42. wise words from Joey (October 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

October 16, 2021

Sonia has been calling me a bit lately. We just talk bout the most random shit and she fucking makes me laugh my ass off. She has also been a great voice of reason tho lol. I can always count on this bitch to come through with help in a stressful situation. Like she will just sit and listen to anything I wanna talk bout and I need someone who is gonna keep me grounded lol. I guess wat she is doing is putting my best interest first cuz from the outside she hasn't got any good feelings towards my ex. **I DON'T FUCKING BLAME HER HAHAAH.** It is refreshing, she is one of those friends who tells it like it is and doesn't tippy toe around me or the situation. She the best friend a bitch could ask for. 🥰🥰 I am so grateful for her friendship. We are practically in a committed relationship. 🏠🏠 U get one of us u get both of us. I honestly don't know wat I would do without that gorl. **LOVE HER TO BITS.** I am feeling really happy lately, idk wat it is. But I am so happy this bitch is always just a phone call away.

Love, Liam 💜

01:16

4G

Me crying on FaceTime cause
liam just Told me he's
moving after uni.. why am I
impacted even tho I'm the
same



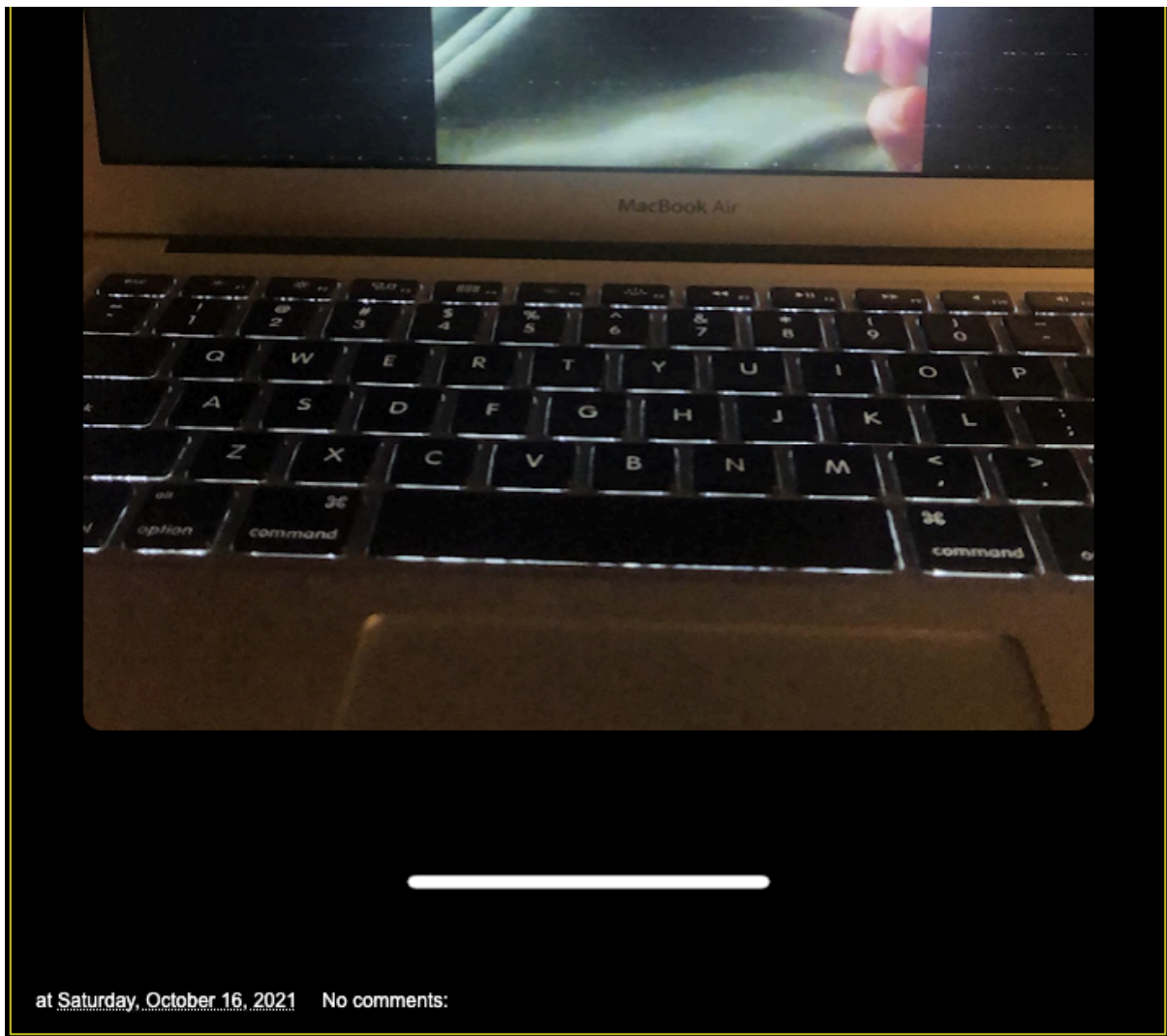


Figure 43. facetime with Sonia (October 16, 2021) Liam Mooney.

October 18, 2021

I kinda got a little tipsy last night and sent a text message to my ex at 3am this morning. **FML WHY DOES THIS SHIT HAPPEN TO ME.** Reading it back, I mean for someone who had a few glasses of wine, it was actually a pretty fucking good message I must admit. 🍷🍷 All I said was that I recognised that the way I spoke to him the last time we contacted each other was quite rude. I wasn't apologizing for nothing tbh, I wasn't at all sorry for wat I said. Apparently, I just needed to get off my chest that I was annoyed at myself for the way I messaged him. Well, drunk me was not wrong, it was the only thing that was still holding me to him and well it aint no more. So, I am proud of me for realizing that whilst being intoxicated yessss bitch. However, I fucking got a response this morning which I woke up to saying, ***"What is the point in acknowledging it if you aren't gonna apologise...move on."*** Well...u know wat, I did. After I read that this morning. Hahaha, he was blocked in under 10 seconds. **FUCK, THAT IDIOT CAN SUCK MY ASS UGHH.** Nobody speaks to me like that especially a dickhead like him. Goodbye, we are done done. 😬😬 Like seriously I will never talk to or talk about that boy ever again, u couldn't even pay me. So done with his hypocritical shit. U don't deserve an apology. Hope u are enjoying ur life cuz god knows I am enjoying mine with u out of it.

Love, Liam 💜

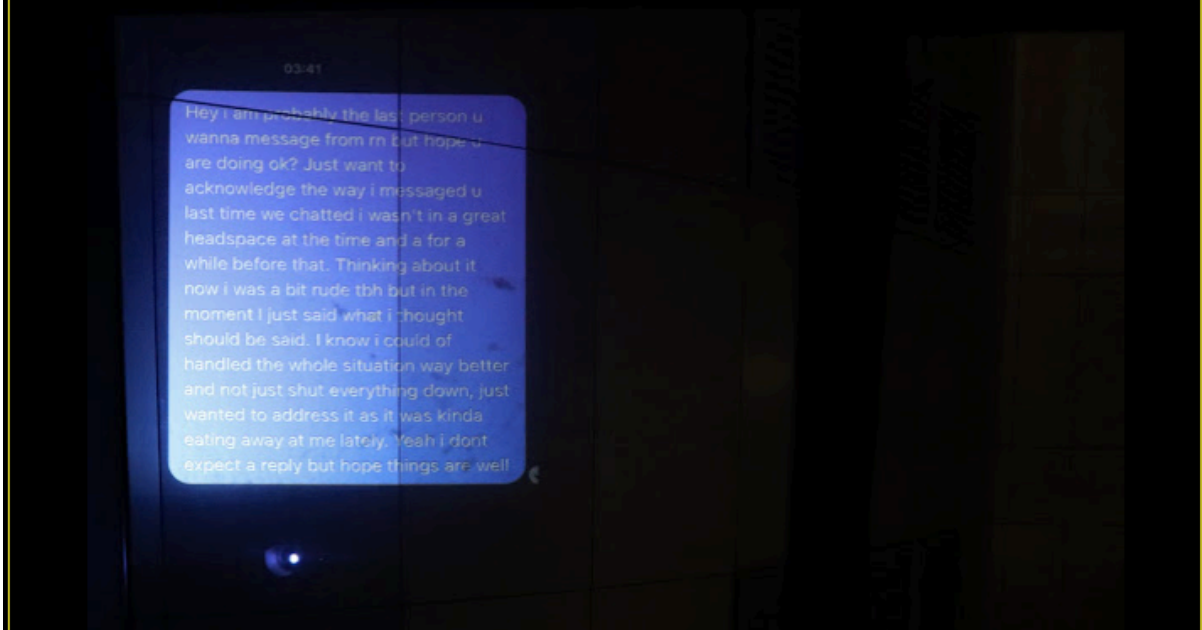
at Monday, October 18, 2021 No comments:

Figure 44. drunk messages (October 18, 2021) Liam Mooney.

October 30, 2021

Ummmm so I just kinda did something. 😬😬 Its literally 2am as I am writing this, I just got into bed and had to debrief wtf I just did. I have this really nice window in my apartment, and it just opens up the room so fucking nicely. **ITS JUST SUCH A NICE WINDOW OKAY!!!** Lol, anyways yesterday I was able to go into uni and grab some things. I was so fucking happy like I just grabbed everything I could. One of the items I got was my projector, I have been wanting to watch some of this Marvel shit on like full-size screen in my room, it was like the first thing I picked up. However, I also just wanted to have a play around with how some projections would look on the window. As I was setting up the projector and plugging my laptop into the hdmi shit, I had picked out the message I had sent to my ex the other day (**cuz ofc we got a screenshot**) to view it on the window. Like a little window message ya know. As the screen started to load onto the window, I then realized how much of an idiot I am. For some reason I forgot that when u project onto glass it just goes through and refracts, reflects and projects like a bunch of physics shit I learnt in year 12, onto the surface behind the glass. Next thing I know, this text message that I send to my ex was being publicly displayed onto the side of the building next to my apartment. I was so fucking shocked I couldn't believe how big and clear it was. But more to the fact how fucking dumb I was to not think that would happen. 😬😬 I spent the next hour playing around and adjusting the size until I got it perfectly fit onto the building next door and it looked fricking amazing. I kept it up there for a while cuz I wondered who was watching. But then I got to a point where I was like ok fuck, have I gone too far sharing this to everyone, or even potentially no one. **I MEAN, IT WAS 2 AM.** From literally the comfort of my own bed out onto this public wall, with 15 levels in my apartment building. I just couldn't imagine who was potentially viewing it from the comfort of their own bed. This accident has literally got my mind ticking. Private to public, back to private but like a private not of my own. It just opens so many fucking questions bout these private/public spaces I am working in. I mean as much as I didn't mean to do it I am so happy I did. Those happy accidents are sometimes the best things in life to happen. [30] But alongside that in this case, I hope there are a few people in the building wondering who's message it is. I also wonder wat it looked like from different floors of the building ughhhhhh. **THE CREATIVE POTENTIAL AHHH.** 🙏🙏 But also the embarrassment. I hate talking to people so I definitely won't ask anyone hahahah. I will just enjoy this moment to myself.

Love, Liam 💜



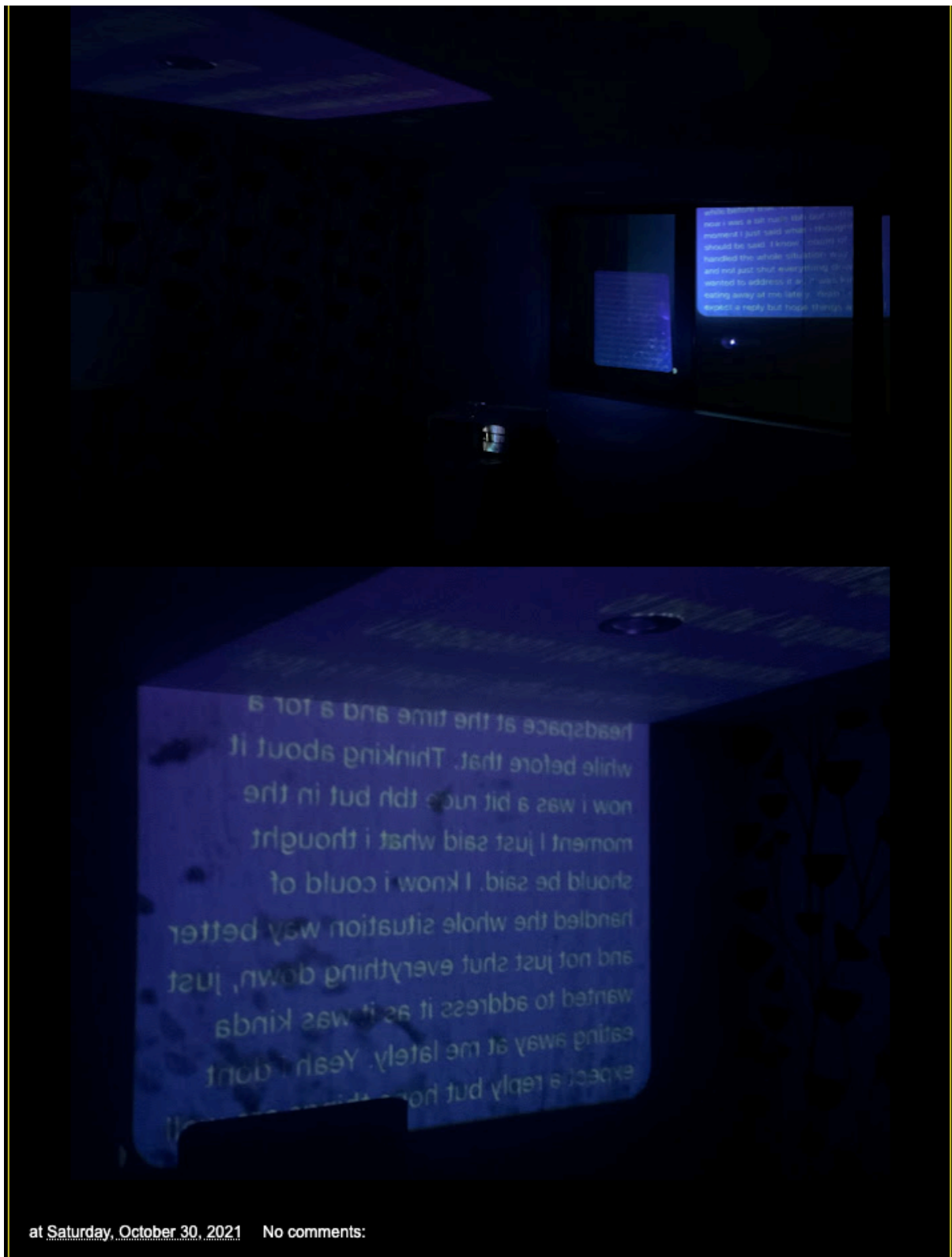


Figure 45. "private" messages (October 30, 2021) Liam Mooney.

³⁰ This particular work was such a happy accident and I am so glad that it happened. The way the projection breached not only the inside of my apartment but the outside structure of the building next door commented in really significant ways on how this project has started to push to an expanded public context. The discourse between public and private has always been prominent in my artmaking

November 12, 2021

So I just got home from the clubs and this boy I have known for a while has been messaging me. Obviously, he is drunk and like thats understandable, I am a little tipsy myself haahaha. However, he has kinda started confessing his feelings towards me and I really don't know wat to do hahah. Like he is saying that he misses me and I am like woahhh. It feels weird to have someone be actually into me again. Lol, honestly wat if he isn't and I am just making it sound like he is. I mean we did kiss once and he has slept in my bed so like hmmm. Who fucking knows? But also who wouldn't wanna be with me. Ew, I hate when I get like this. Calm the fuck down Liam, gosh who do u think u are gods gift? **HAHAHAHAH.** 🤔🤔 Anyways I am just not feeling comfortable in myself and confident in myself to try dating again I think. Fucking around is different, I am definitely in that hoe phase I predicted earlier. Like I say all of this shit about how I am stunning but, deep down I am not really feeling it. Also talking about wat I do is so fucking annoying as well. Wat do u study? Wat is ur thesis bout? Ummm....I am writing my thesis about my ex hehe... r u attracted to me?? Just so awkward. But more to the fact I am just not happy with myself at the moment. Not only on the outside but the inside as well. My mental state is just out of this world. Anyways enough bout those problems wtf am I gonna do bout this man in my dms. He either needs to evactuate quickly or maybe I give him a try. Lol I will decide later, its time to sleep hahaha. God I am a bitch. 💀💀

Love, Liam 💜

Cause we got a new roommate and we getting to know him

And I got drunk after 5 whoskeys and 1 beer

I mean I'm on my 5th whiskey now

And I miss you



at Friday, November 12, 2021 No comments:

Figure 46. And I miss you (November 12, 2021) Liam Mooney.

but, at this moment, I was able to visualise the development the project since the beginning. This accidental moment pivoted me in a direction that focused on the ways people observe and witness my work. Rather than just performing or installing, my works themselves were becoming moments of encounter for the audience. This involved projecting my own encounters in a public space where others might stumble upon them; encountering my previous encounters. “*private*” messages accidentally broke the lines between public and private, displaying something so personal in such a public manner. I will never be sure who even saw this particular work, and it still occupies my thoughts today. The impact it had on my future discoveries within the private and public realms has pushed me to explore ideas within my artmaking such as live streamed performance and so on.

November 21, 2021

Bout a week ago I had a very fucking interesting dream [31] bout my ex partner and my god did it stick with me. It felt so real, but the contents of the dream sounded so bizzare that I was just so fucking perplexed whether it had happened or not. Whilst being tied up in my apartment going bout my day to day, the day after the dream I couldn't stop thinking about it. So naturally I thought that I had to use it for the project. I knowwww, we are on a path of moving the fuck on, but it was just too good not to. Wat was kinda great tho, was the more I pursued this the more it helped hahaha. **HOWEVER, I AM ABSOLUTELY FUCKED OI.** I decided to use the dream to prompt the very long and draining performance 36° 51' 15.474''S, 174° 45' 55.912''E. [32] I just woke up from an amazing sleep after completing it and I will probably need a nap later too. 😴😴 Practically, in the performance I was just babbling on, constantly retelling the dream as it happened, whilst going about my day like I normally would. The more I told it, the more it changed, the more I thought bout it, the more I got tired of talking bout it. So in a way it kinda helped me not wanna speak bout it anymore. It was like some kind of reverse therapy, where the more I talked about something the less likely I would wanna talk about it again. **WOWW, I AM KINDA SMART.** Anyways, this lasted for so fucking long and it was something that really commented on the project as a whole. Enduring something and pushing urself for so long will end up having results or, in this case will help u get the fuck over the shit from my past. Unexpected things will happen. [33] I was just so shocked at how I felt when I woke up and how hard it was for me to think about this performance. Luckily I forced myself to write this blog post because if I had left it any longer there wouldn't be one. Wat was also interesting was wat had happened during the performance since it was live-streamed. I was not sure who was watching me. It sounds creepy but it is true. I don't know who came into the live-stream unless they told me they did or they left a comment in the live chat. 💬💬 This audience/ observer conversation which seems to be popping up a lot in my work was so fucking prominent here. Prominent in a voyeury way that I kinda like. [34] Not only did the performance help me forget that damn dream, it also helped me discover some more shit about the way audiences situate themselves in offline and online spaces. [35] For being stuck in a studio apartment, I think I worked my pussy out and like I am hoping my crit will be just as insightful as the ideas I gained just from doing it. I don't think I will be doing anymore performances like this anytime soon cuz fuck I burnt myself out. Let me rest alright, I will be back when I have something else interesting hahaha.

Love, Liam 💜

Figure 47. voyeuristic chats (November 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.

³¹ An imaginary encounter.

³² 36° 51' 18.63'' S, 174° 46' 2.345'' E was a 16 hour long live-streamed performance where I retold a strange dream I had a week prior, repetitively as I went about my daily life. The performance mimicked the day after I had the dream where I was constantly riddled with the thought of it from the minute I woke up to the time I fell asleep that night. This was an endurance based performance which took me, as performer, out of my comfort zone but provided an interesting movement within the project's research especially in regards to the audience and ideas around witnessing.

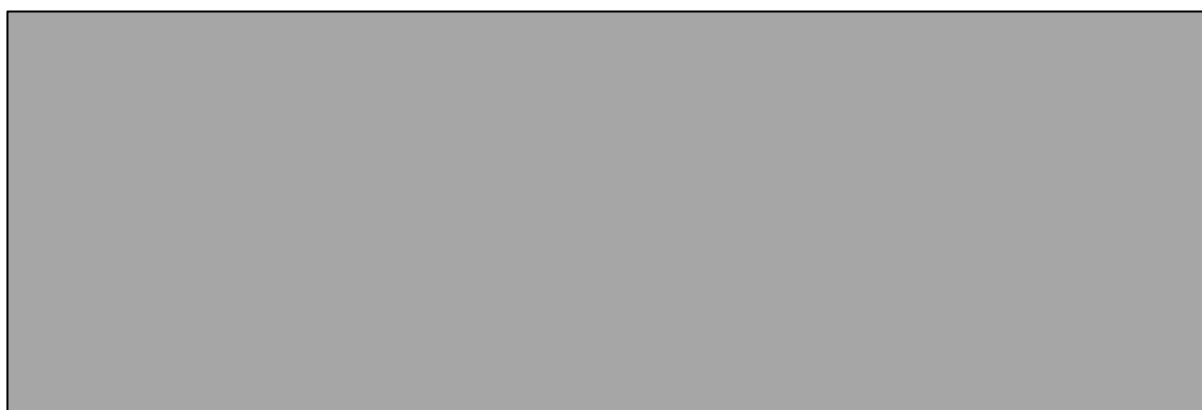
³³ A particular work that has been a point of reference for a lot of the performance and endurance based elements within the project is, *The Lovers: The Great Wall Walk* (1988). A performance piece by Marina Abramović and Ulay, where they trekked from opposite ends of The Great Wall of China and planned to meet in the middle to get married. As David Bramwell writes: "They saw *The Lovers* as an odyssey and a performance in which they alone would be both players and audience. Both of them exhilarated by the emotional and physical scale of the work." For years their artistic

collaborations focused on performances that put them in physically demanding situations to see how them and their audience react or respond. However, after complications with permission from the Chinese Government, and the years of waiting to activate the work, their lives changed drastically. Instead of being a moment of new beginnings, *The Lovers* transformed from wedding to divorce – a dramatic ending of their relationship as partners and collaborators.

See: David Bramwell, “The Bittersweet Story of Marina Abramović’s Epic Walk on the Great Wall of China,” the Guardian, April 25, 2020, <http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/apr/25/marina-abramovic-ulyay-walk-the-great-wall-of-china>.

Abramovic describes the work as a “theatrical and harrowing ending.” Through the self-embodied performance and the endurance elements of the work, it displays a love-hate tension that reflects the way heartbreak and the process of letting go accumulate over time. With this work being so pivotal for both artists (in their personal lives and art lives) and how their bodies exist within it as *lovers*, it explores a relationship between art and life that I see pretty strongly within my project. Emerging contexts started to reveal themselves as I made, thought and responded to my past trauma. My research over time was constantly being influenced by *my everyday*. Abramović and Ulay’s performance sits within the idea of emerging contexts; the nature of their everyday not only changed the outcome of the artwork, but a part of their life was possible only through artmaking. These emerging contexts of life and art are similar to the way in which I hope my project operates, revealing complex relationships and an ability to move on.

See: “Marina Abramović. The Great Wall Walk. 1988/2008 | MoMA,” The Museum of Modern Art, accessed April 12, 2021, <https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/243/3125>.



Stills from *The Lovers: The Great Wall Walk*, Originally performed for 90 days along The Great Wall of China, 1988. Marina Abramović. 16mm film (colour silent) transferred to two-channel video, 2008, 16:45 min, MoMA, <https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/243/3125>.

³⁴ Being watched on the screen whilst not knowing who was entering the performance was a strange feeling to me. But I also enjoyed not knowing what areas my performance breached throughout peoples’ day. Some were taking me on gallery visits and placing their phone with me babbling in the gallery, while others had people overhear what I was talking about and question what they were watching. I breached my invited audience. I had only posted on my personal Instagram and on the Universities social media pages that I was doing the performance so only those people would know. However, what about the people around them (partners, children and friends for example) They technically weren’t invited but they become witness of my work which fits into the ideas brought up in other works around observing and witnessing. It almost seemed like a sense of nonsexual voyeurism; being intrigued to see what other people are watching and wanting to know yourself. Beyond the laptop I was talking at all day, I really had no idea who was watching me.



Figure 48. 36° 51' 18.63" S, 174° 46' 2.345" E (November 21, 2021) Liam Mooney.

³⁵ Recording myself online all day made me think about having an online platform and the way people do this as a job. I was thinking about the online presence I hold, between my friends and other acquaintances. Where did this performance sit? This online platform not only sits within my social media, it extends to dating apps as well. The performance was an endurance of a specific dream, however, it also commented on the mental endurance of this project. Alongside that there was the endurance to sit and listen to everyone on social media go on about their supposed amazing lives. The emotional endurance this project required drained my body both mentally and physically, beyond what I thought it would.

December 4, 2021

I HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BACK IN THE STUDIO!!! The gods have blessed me and I can finally return and make some shit and go insane in a space other than my apartment. So I just went in today and just made a mess. Thanks to Sia, she put me in a fucking mad as bad bitch mood because she sent me a song titled *i hate u*, and well u know who I hate hahaha. 🤪

🤪 **SOOO I JUST DECIDED TO LET ALL MY FEELINGS OUT.** As I jammed the song in my airpods all day, I painted the words *i hate u* all over the huge fucking white wall in my studio space. And honestly, I have never felt better. To me this is a pinnacle point in this process because I think my feelings for my ex have actually stopped and now it has gone to hatred because I am aware of wat the fuck he did to me. So this one is for u bitch. Enjoy because I am going to leave this up, until I get told to paint over it because fuck the white walls. 💀💀 I mean that will be another pinnacle moment for me. I am going to post this on insta, I am gonna scream it from the top of my lungs, I am ready to let go of all this shit cuz I want people to know that **I HATEEEEEEEEE UUUUUU.**

Love, Liam 💜



at Saturday, December 04, 2021 No comments:

Figure 49. *i hate u* (December 4, 2021) Liam Mooney.

December 14, 2021

Frankie and Elena came over last night and omg I forgot how much I miss them so much. We stayed up all night and watched a K-pop award show like a bunch of dweebs and quite frankly it was amazing. Anyways after that as always Franks and I stayed up the whole night well cuz we are nocturnal, and we like to have random dmcs at all hours of the morning. **LIKE IDK WHY WE JUST DONT SLEEP FFS.** While Lena was falling asleep on the couch, we went outside and sat at a bus stop close by. 🚌🚌 It was about 3 am and we sat there till the sun came up talking about the most random shit. I was just in my feels and just need to vent about so many things and like so did she. My fav thing was the fact that I didn't have to do it over the fucking phone or a zoom call, it was amazing. Time went by so fast cuz well we couldn't stop talking and literally topic after topic would come up. I love that bitch to pieces, sad that Lena couldn't join tbh. However, I will forever be grateful for my friendship with both of them. But this morning really helped me I just wasn't in the best headspace so, I was glad someone could understand me. So franks, I appreciate u gori and the amount of shit we have been through well that's a whole other blog. **ALWAYS LOVE U FRANKS.** U too Lena!! 😘😘

Love, Liam 💜





Figure 50. 4 am conversations (December 14, 2021) Liam Mooney.

December 25, 2021

MERRY XMAS U BITCHES. 🤪🤪 Out of fucking nowhere its actually Christmas, I am back at my parents place for a bit, ready to chill, get a little drunk at the big family dinner tonight and just have some fun. Good to be back around some good vibes. Need some holiday fun, hopefully there are some guys at my parents place I can sneak out and have some with at night hahaha. 🍷🍷🍷🍷 Anyways let's have a great holiday. Hope St Nick paid a visit during the night, hehe xx.

Love, Liam 💜

at Saturday, December 25, 2021 No comments:

Figure 51. merry xmas (December 25, 2021) Liam Mooney.

January 5, 2022

I am honestly already done with this fucking new year, I just deactivated all of my social media accounts and honestly it is one of the most freeing things I have done in a while. After being forced to experience everything online last year (fucking weird saying last year) I am totally fucking sick of looking at my phone. **ALSO I AM KINDA JUST OVER EVERYONE.** I had a really shit new years tbh, I am not really in a good place with how I am feeling about myself. So, I started to take that out on my family when I came home for the holidays. 😭😭 I am sorry. On top of that I am just sick of looking at everyone's supposed perfect lives online and just being fake af. I don't get it at all, why do I put myself through this? So I am taking this time to look after myself and just relax cuz honestly I need it. Being back home as made me go insane and I am really annoyed at that cuz I miss my family nonstop. However, there are some family troubles I am feeling lately that need to be addressed. I need to confront them, but cuz my family don't like to talk about anything it is fucking hard. I feel ugly, I feel useless, I am doing this degree, which is amazing, I am unemployed which is not so amazing, and I am going through my life slowly using all the money I have. Trying to make decisions for myself, trying to please everyone and be this not so gay artist in a family of straight people who don't seem to understand me, fuck its hard. Being looked at weirdly and different? Or at least that is how I feel around them sometimes. It is not even just one thing it is a multitude of them, and I am so close to combusting. I am sure that half of this is just my own insecurities and how I have been made feel in society. [36] I feel outcasted in my own home. I am over the bullshit of sitting and taking hits for no reasons. I was a selfish bitch a year ago when I was in this relationship with my ex, I was only thinking about him and us. My mother called me out on it and now I am actually realizing wat a dick I was. I am trying so hard to be nice and to play fair to everyone and not cause drama and not be a nuisance, but it seems like my existence has become a nuisance. **I AM OVER IT.** I will be considerate about other people's feelings and wat is going on in their lives, I understand that. But I am not putting myself down anymore cuz of it. Look at the person being in love made me become. I don't wanna be that person ever again however, I also need to remember to put myself first. 🙌🙌 I love my family so much that nothing would ever pull us apart they have been so supportive of me and everything that I do. 💜💜 Yes, I am different and yes I am passionate about things however, it's a two way street. I will focus on bettering myself and I hope they think the same way too. They are my support, and I don't ever wanna lose that. I have nowhere else to turn to so plz listen.

Love, Liam 💜

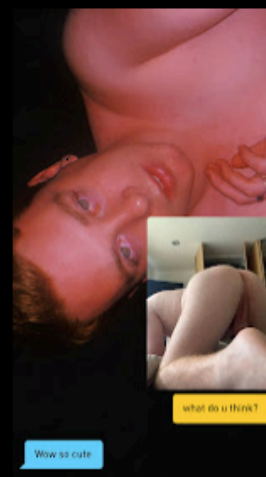
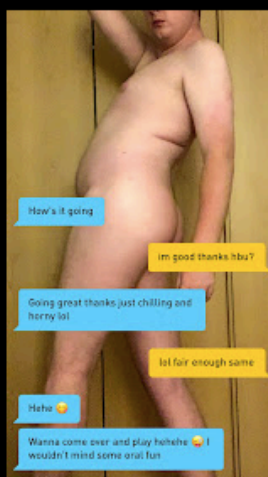
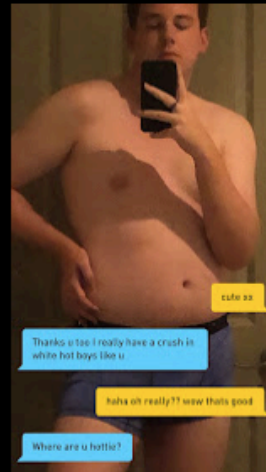
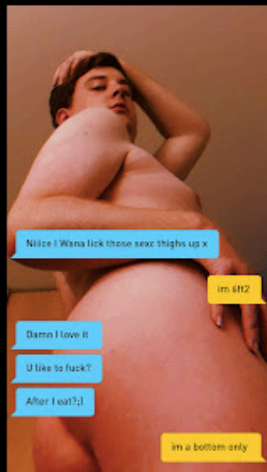
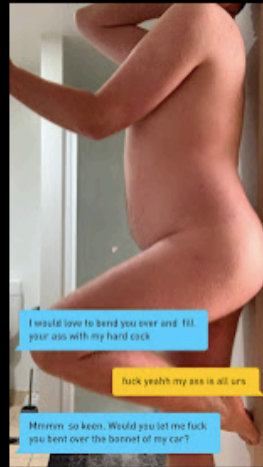
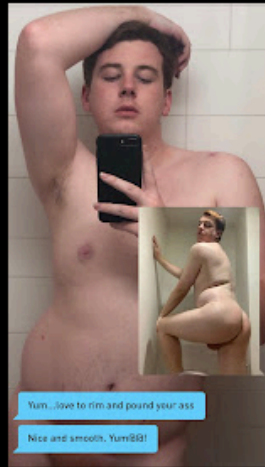
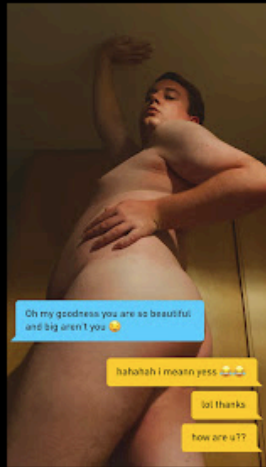
at Wednesday, January 05, 2022 No comments:

Figure 52. new year not so new me (January 5, 2022) Liam Mooney.

³⁶ When pursuing this degree I knew that the process and project wouldn't be ordinary. As a queer individual who has constantly been pushed aside by society, I knew I wanted to take the opportunity to embody my emotions, my political and ethical beliefs and integrate them into my artmaking and this process of moving on after heart break. Helen Phelan and Graham F. Welch comment on the artistic endeavours we take within academic institutes. They talk about how we as artists should focus on a social responsibility within our art practice that leads to humanizing or rehumanizing academia and pushing the boundaries of the hegemonic dominance that sits within the realms of academic research. I knew that throughout this project, by staying true to myself and trusting my gut, I could queer academic research in ways beyond just talking about it. My goal was never to destroy everything around me, but it was to awaken and question the expectations that came with completing a postgraduate degree.

See: Helen Phelan and Graham F. Welch, *The Artist and Academia* (Milton, UNITED KINGDOM: Taylor & Francis Group, 2021), <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aut/detail.action?docID=6518506>.

February 12, 2022



**I may have deleted my social media, but I would never
delete Grindr.**

at Saturday, February 12, 2022 No comments:

Figure 53. grindr fun (February 12, 2022) Liam Mooney.

February 14, 2022

Fuck I really neglected this blog when I went off the rails aye. 😭😭 Gurl, we are feeling a lot better about life and we are back alright. **ANYWAYS I HAVE NEWS, SO LISTEN UP BITCHES.** First off I got a new job, like this week was my first week and I am so fucking happy. Like I am earning my own money again, I can treat myself now so no more mopey Liam. But also more great news. I think I have found a guy that is actually interesting and I am interested in. I am not gonna talk about him cuz once I fall in love I tend to leave that person out of my art. So I am going to wait see what happens, it could go somewhere idk ahhh. I know my life is my art, but I find it weird I just wanna live in the moment ya know. I have always had this rule about my practice cuz it is heavily focused on my relationships. If it goes shit then we can maybe write another thesis about him instead hahahaha kidding, not really lol. But yeah. **I AM FEELING SO MUCH BETTER BOUT EVERYTHING GOING ON.** I have been back at uni and my supervisions start again soon, so it is the beginning of crunch time. 🏃🏃 We are not leaving shit to the last minute this year, ok. Lol that is not gonna happen hahaha. Anyways, this is the official beginning of my new year alongside that its valentines day. Mister mans has something planned tonight I am just getting ready to go meet him and we shall see rn happens. Ughhh I am totally back bitches. [37]

Love, Liam 💜

at Monday, February 14, 2022 No comments:

Figure 54. neglectation at its finest (February 14, 2022) Liam Mooney.

³⁷ I love having the ability to explore my life within my artmaking, however, because the two overlap way too often, there are certain methods I put in place to make sure I keep myself safe. Quitting social media was literally one of the best things I could have done. A study by Natalie Pennington shows that a common reason a lot of people deactivate, or move off social media for certain amounts of time, is exhaustion and over load, also known as *techno-stress*. When I tell you this was exactly how I felt, you may not believe me. After confiding in online spaces for my social life, academic life and work, I had just about enough of dealing with online spaces and detached myself from them. This led me to focus on bettering my life. Although the shift in my project was very interesting in regards to how my experiencing was being situated through an online presence, I needed to refer back to my original way of experiencing physical spaces, objects and people. Luckily, with the lockdown restrictions being let down slowly, I was able to start doing that again, however, I wish I was given more time to explore them too.

See: Natalie Pennington, "Quitting Social Media: A Qualitative Exploration of Communication Outcomes," *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* 22, no. 1 (January 1, 2021): 30–38, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17459435.2020.1817140>.

February 18, 2022

So, I just grabbed a bottle of wine with Chelsea, and holy shit. The supermarket is making us both really feel seen and heard for pride month, hahaha. 🌈 I can't, like honestly they went all out and well it worked. I feel proud of who I am, I walked right out of that supermarket with my Moscato Rosé and a slab of Rolo chocolate and we drove our queer asses back to my place for some chill wine vibes, some shit talk about men and a potential podcast venture where we just talk about our exes, or sexual endeavours and the love/hate relationship we have with dating. **I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS FEELING THO.** But u know wat is sad though is that in 10 days it will all be taken down. Well, for the rest of the month I am doing my shopping there, yesss. **WORRKKKKK COUNTDOWN.** 🙏🙏

Love, Liam 💜



at Friday, February 18, 2022 No comments:

Figure 55. feeling seen and heard (February 18, 2022) Liam Mooney.

18:29

4G 

Good evening, Liam! 



Profile



Inbox



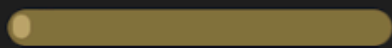
Gold Member



Anniversary Date: 22/02/2023

STARBUCKS® REWARDS

7/150 ★



143 ★ until next Reward

[Rewards details](#)

Your Rewards

[View all](#)



Your free promotional roast

Expires on 27/02/2022



You

Exp

[Reload](#)

What's New



Figure 56. gold member at Starbucks (February 20, 2022) Liam Mooney.

February 22, 2022

I just wanna make a shoutout to my sister rn. She is literally the best, like she be keeping me caffeinated, she be keeping me on my toes and I just love when we go for food or coffee runs that they just becomes these rant/debate/argument/dmc shenanigans about uni. More specifically about wat I am trying to accomplish with my project. 🎉🎉 Lol, my sis is currently studying her PhD in nanoplasmonics, like wtf, alongside my brother who has his PhD in neuroscience. Me, I am the creative one in the family, alright. **BUT MY RESEARCH IS JUST AS FUCKING IMPORTANT HAHHAHA.** Anyways, Roche always has interesting views about wat I am wanting to talk about or do for my exegesis. Her degree is very academic and her listening to me putting my personal opinion, writing casually, fucking talking bout experience and how research can never being impersonal, just creates the most interesting conversations ever. Like we are polar opposites in regards to academia and its so annoying but fun just defending the reasons behind my research. I need to start recording these honestly. Damn why did I only just think of that now? My sister and I wont ever see eye to eye and honestly sometimes I think she doubts the ability of what I am doing. But honestly I don't understand wtf she does sometimes so I just sit there and nod hahaha but don't tell her I said that. 🙄🙄 I just got back from coffee with her actually so I am pumped and I have my first draft for my writing due on the 24th. So I am gonna channel that energy into the writing, hopefully come out with something good. Because well as expected I haven't even looked at it once this whole week. **UGHHHHHHHHHH.** Thanks again sis, u really got me fired up today, and well I will shout coffee when I finish my exegesis.

Love, Liam 💜💜

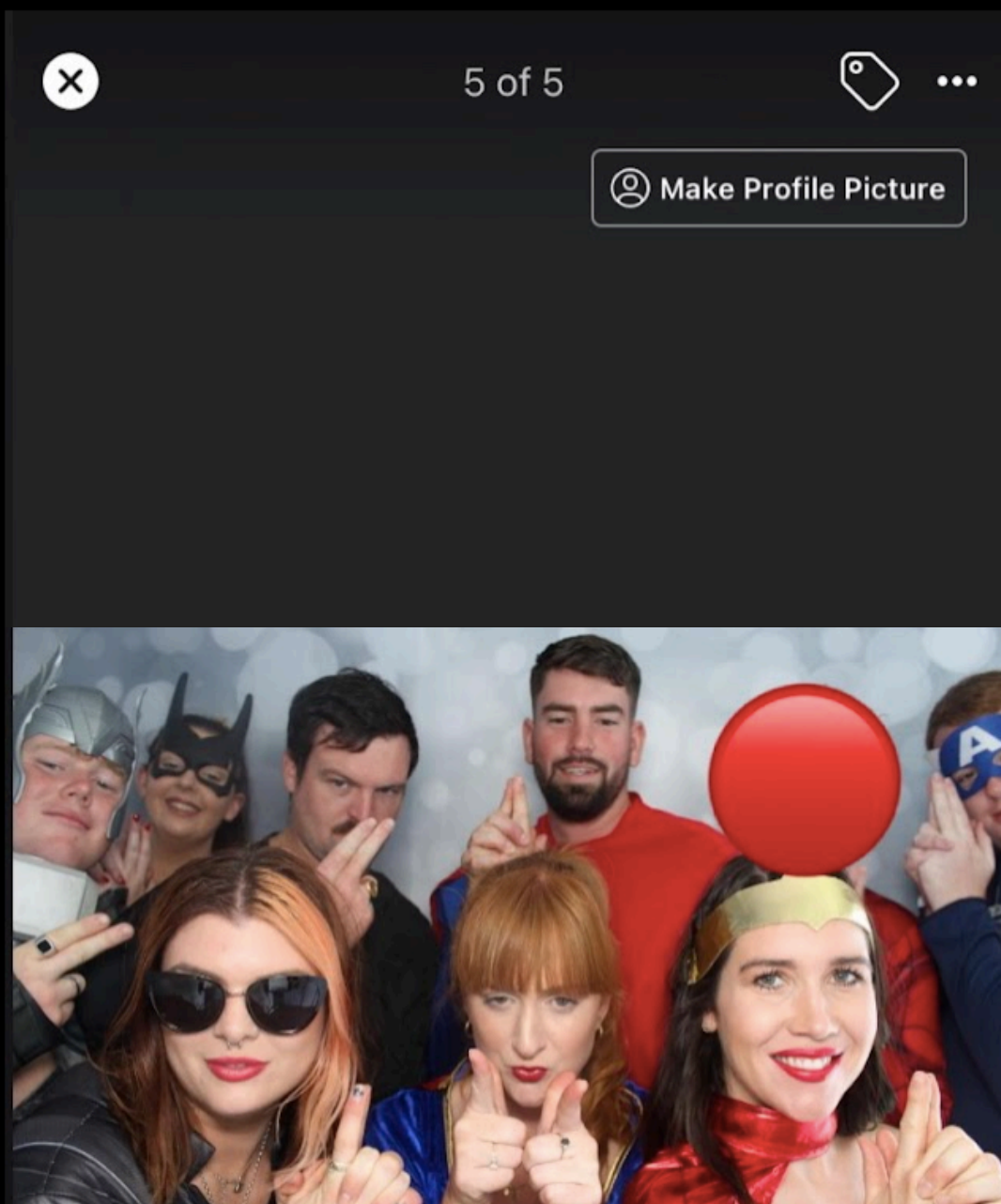
at Tuesday, February 22, 2022 No comments:

Figure 57. shoutout to my sister (February 22, 2022) Liam Mooney.

March 3, 2022

GOD I AM KINDA FUCKING ANNOYED AT MY COUSIN. Like she posted a Facebook message for one of our other cousins birthdays and she had the nerve to use a photo from like a party a year ago, with my ex in it. 🙄🙄 Like really sis ffs. Okay like I know I shouldn't be thinking about him anymore but just common sense surely right. Ugghhh lol idk wat else to say. **LIKE JUST DON'T DO THAT.** I think it is kinda annoying ngl. Yes, I shouldn't be that pressed by it, but I kinda am. I am starting to feel this chapter of my experiencing for this process ending soon, but this is still my life at the end of the day. Doing stuff like this is still going to effect me. Does this mean I have some unresolved issue? I don't think so lol, to me its more I just don't wanna see his face. 🤔🤔 Fuck my emotions right, just seems like a low blow haha definitely removing my tag off this photo for sure.

Love, Liam 💜



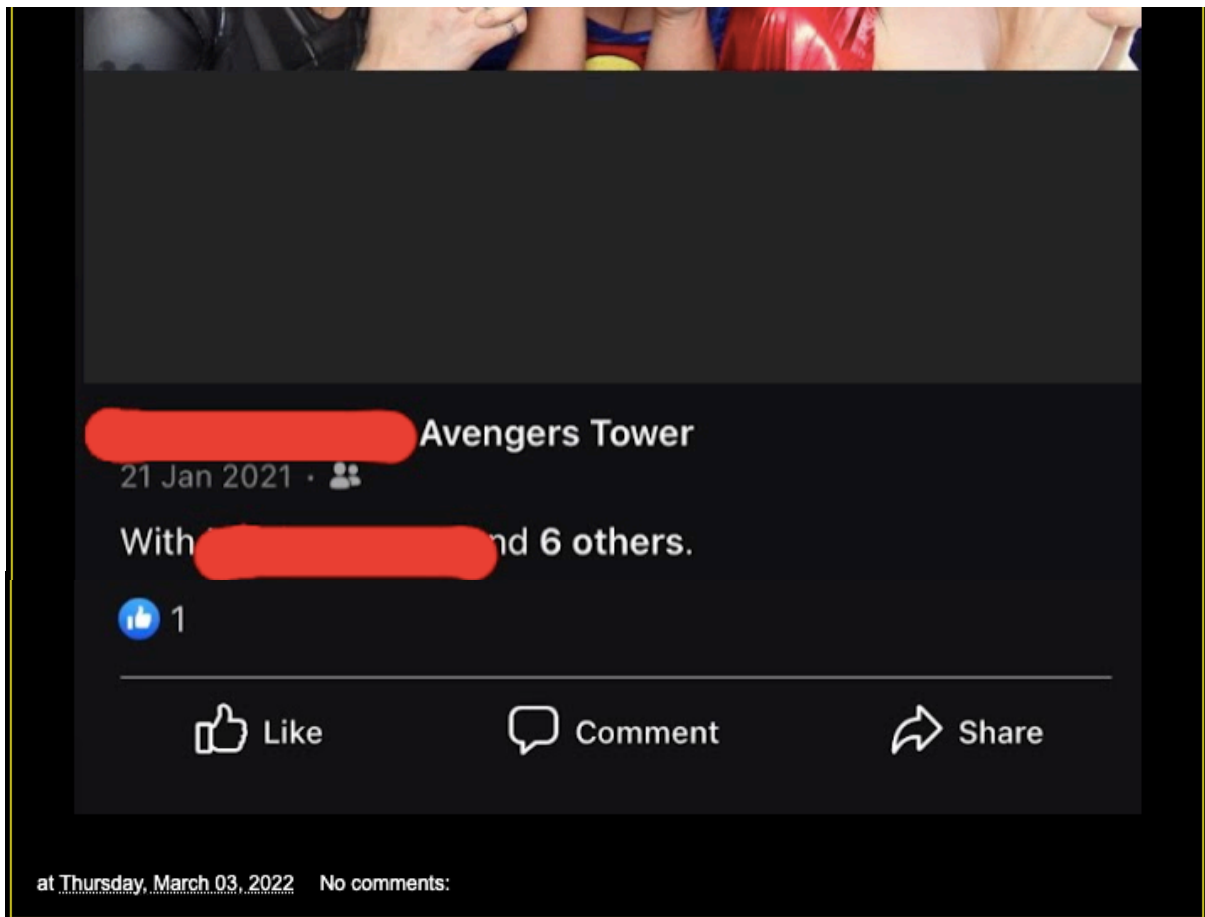


Figure 58. avengers let's not assemble (March 3, 2022) Liam Mooney.

March 5, 2022

It has finally happen everyone, this bitch has got the Rona. 🤒🤒 Miss Rona decided to come and fuck up my life, when I have so much happening, and am so fucking busy. **LOVE THAT FOR ME RIGHT?** I mean it gives me 10 days to fucking sit and focus on my writing because god knows I need that. But that is more commonly known as do nothing so we shall see. I have a presentation due at the end of it too so fuck me better get stepping on that. Honestly, I am feeling so shit, it just feels like a worsened cold and I just wanna sleep. I hope I didn't pass it on to anyone at uni, especially James we had a supervision in person the other day, like we were masked and distanced but fingers crossed. 🙌🙌 I just didn't need this happen rn, but at the same time I am also happy it did cuz well in three months I will be handing in my exegesis and if I had got it then, well I would have cried so hard. **LET'S NOT GO DOWN THAT RABBIT HOLE.** I need to focus on getting better, I am gonna go for a nap now, don't expect much from me for the next week. I will try do as much as I can.

Love, Liam 💜

at Saturday, March 05, 2022 No comments:

Figure 59. miss rona got me (March 5, 2022) Liam Mooney.

March 16, 2022

I just finished my Covid stint, had my presentation yesterday and OMG, guess who has just come home. **AHHHH MY BROTHER IS HOME FUCKK I MISSED HIM.** I haven't seen him in three years and like literally I am so happy he is back. He is just so chill, I fucking love him ugggh. Like it is weird cuz he hasn't been around so he doesn't really know what has happened and like well its always so chill with him. There is a kinda big age gap between us and we are always on different parts of life but like I just wish we got to hang out more. 🥺🥺 So, I am really gonna make an effort while he is back to do shit with him cuz I don't even know when I will see him again. He understands me a bit more than the rest of my family idk wat it is. But with everything I just feel a lot more comfortable being my authentic self around him. Not saying that I cant with other members of the fam, but its just more with him he just doesn't give a fuck hahahaha. I was actually thinking the other day when I heard he was coming home, how he never actually got to meet my ex. [38] So around him it is like nothing ever happened, which in my books is fucking great. 🍑🍑 I literally cannot wait any longer, my sister is picking me up soon so I better start packing, she is taking me home so I can see him and spend some time at my parents. Excited, cannot wait to have the whole family back together. Lol actually watch me lose my mind in a couple of seconds, jokes I will be civil I promise. **LOVE U BRO! EXCITED TO HAVE U HOME, ALSO PLZ DON'T GO BACK HAHAAH.**

Love, Liam 💜

at Wednesday, March 16, 2022 No comments:

Figure 60. hey bro (March 16, 2022) Liam Mooney.

³⁸ I was so happy that my brother never met my ex. Even though he cares about what happens in my life, he's not someone to be nosey. Throughout this project I have had a range of conversations with a variety of people who all had different expectations and opinions about this project. However, when I talked to my brother he made me feel like my opinion was the only one that mattered. Throughout this process, I have been trying to build my self-confidence up again, and through methods of reflection and healing, I wanted to get rid of the ghosts of my past. It wasn't until I hung out with my brother alone one night that I realised how important my voice was. I can go on about being queer, and always having to fight for my say within society and the academic environment, but I think I have achieved my personal goal of finding myself again and healing my heart. Beyond wanting to fight for queer voices within an academic setting, this process was actually by me and for me.

March 17, 2022

Fucking hell, I keep getting reminders about the worst day of my life. So, a year ago today was the beginning of the rough patch for my ex and I. 😞😞 It was St Patricks Day, it was my Graduation Day, I had an important class for uni and to top that all of it was the day me and my ex decided to take a break. This was a big moment in our relationship cuz for me honestly it was the moment where I realised I wasn't being treated like I should be. I could go on and tell the story again to let it out one last time, but honestly I am tired. **I AM TIRED GOING ON AND ON ABOUT THIS BOY.** So i am saying nothing. We will just leave it at that. This moment was obviously hard for me and well as you know later down the line we broke up. But for now it is time to focus on the next chapter. It feels weird to stop, but like I have lost all motivation to bitch anymore. Normally my past interests me so much but this relationship has been exhausted. Wow, I guess this petty blog did work hahaha. 😂😂 What is the point in continuing anymore?

Love, Liam 💜

at Thursday, March 17, 2022 No comments:

Figure 61. worst day of my life (March 17, 2022) Liam Mooney.

³⁹ RIP to my past relationship.

March 27, 2022

Today marks a year since the break-up. Wow, like I literally can't even believe it has already been a year. I know in the past year I have said many of nasty things about this man. But I have a strong feeling of accomplishment and release. **I HAVE USED MY PRACTICE FOR GOOD.** I know I say that my art is for me, but I forget until I reach points like this that it really is my life. I have spent this last year dissecting this relationship, investigating what happens in my day-to-day life and just being a psycho. Like god she went through it. 🤔🤔 I know that nothing will ever be fully complete and in the sense of my feelings towards the relationship it will still pop up in my mind from time to time. However, I think I have managed to move into a new space of my life that I am happier about. I am in a new relationship, I am being more socially active, I am enjoying my new job, I am pushing myself to do new things, and this all came from this thesis. I don't wanna end blogging, but I think the blog towards my ex-relationship is over for now. **IT NEEDS TO BE PUT TO REST. [39]** I genuinely hope that my ex is doing okay. Like I said I know things ended on a lot of hate and hurt, but I do wish him the best. I wonder whether he feels the same about me. This process has been crazy, and now I have to sit down and compile it all into a fucking word document. It just seems so fucking hard to do that. Especially now that I am supposedly over focusing on it hahaha. I hope to see my ex one day and apologise maybe for some of the things I said or did. But for now it's time to finish this thesis off. 🙏🙏 I have two months left to get this writing done. I'll keep experiencing and keep living my life but for this journey now, I shall say goodbye.

Love, Liam 💜



at Sunday, March 27, 2022 No comments:

Figure 62. goodbye for now (March 27, 2022) Liam Mooney.

Love, Liam

This research project is still about me, my life is still and will continue to be the research project. Over the past year, I have been going through a process of reflection and healing, that has opened up questions around where my queer experience is situated within the realms of academic research. However, it isn't complete, I will not write that I completed this journey exactly how I wanted to nor provide you with a tidy conclusion in order to placate your academic desires. Having the ability to share my experiences, unfiltered through the means of blogging, performance, and installation, opened up spaces for my past experiences and everyday encounters to inform the ways in which my life presents itself as research. My life and my practice exist with each other, and this practice-led research project provided room for my queer intimate lifestyle, to exist in an academic institution. While I am still continuing to live my life, there is never a conclusion to my research. Even though this process documents the emotions of getting over heartbreak for the period of a year, it still lives on with my existence and the experiences I will continue to have. Concluding without actually concluding gives me as a queer individual the queer satisfaction I have been looking for throughout this practice-led research project. Not only did this process start as a form of healing, it soon turned into a source of power and queer activism, that allowed my queer experience to be present in a space that has previously denied its worth. This provides no outcomes and continues the unexpected journey that I have been on throughout this process. Finishing here, by saying that I am not finished, resists the closure we are expected to strive towards within academic research. This means provoking the heteronormative expectations that have bombarded my life and the same pressures which continue to bombard me and other queer individuals, now.

references

- Bartlett, Ruth, and Christine Milligan. *What Is Diary Method?* Bloomsbury Academic, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781472572578>.
- Bramwell, David. "The Bittersweet Story of Marina Abramović's Epic Walk on the Great Wall of China." *the Guardian*, April 25, 2020. <http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/apr/25/marina-abramovic-ulya-walk-the-great-wall-of-china>.
- Dewey, John. *Art as Experience*. New York: Capricorn Books, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1958.
- Edward, Mark. *Mesearch and the Performing Body*. Cham, SWITZERLAND: Springer International Publishing AG, 2018. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aut/detail.action?docID=5240707>.
- Hartal, Gilly. "Fragile Subjectivities: Constructing Queer Safe Spaces." *Social & Cultural Geography*, June 8, 2017, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2017.1335877>.
- The Museum of Modern Art. "Marina Abramović. The Great Wall Walk. 1988/2008 | MoMA." Accessed April 12, 2021. <https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/243/3125>.
- Papadopoulou, Marianna. "The Authority of Personal Knowledge in the Development of Critical Thinking — a Pedagogy of Self-Reflection." *Enhancing Learning in the Social Sciences* 3, no. 3 (July 1, 2011): 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.11120/elss.2011.03030012>.
- Pennington, Natalie. "Quitting Social Media: A Qualitative Exploration of Communication Outcomes." *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* 22, no. 1 (January 1, 2021): 30–38. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17459435.2020.1817140>.
- Phelan, Helen, and Graham F. Welch. *The Artist and Academia*. Milton, UNITED KINGDOM: Taylor & Francis Group, 2021. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aut/detail.action?docID=6518506>.
- Rak, Julie. "The Digital Queer: Weblogs and Internet Identity." *Biography* 28, no. 1 (2005): 166–82. <https://doi.org/10.1353/bio.2005.0037>.
- Shiff, Richard. "Art and Life: A Metaphoric Relationship." *Critical Inquiry* 5, no. 1 (1978): 107–22.
- "Sophie Calle: Take Care of Yourself – Press Release | Paula Cooper Gallery." Accessed May 18, 2021. <https://www.paulacoopergallery.com/exhibitions/sophie-calle-take-care-of-yourself/press-release>.
- "Stretcher | Features | Sophie Calle at the Venice Biennale." Accessed June 13, 2021. https://www.stretcher.org/features/sophie_calle_at_the_venice_biennale/.

Sullivan, Nikki. *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*. NYU Press, 2003.

Viora, Angela. "To Be or Not to Be There: When the Performer Leaves the Scene and Makes Room for the Audience." *Performance Research* 22, no. 8 (November 17, 2017): 135–43. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13528165.2017.1433392>.

"What Is Me-Search? | Write Where It Hurts." Accessed March 28, 2022.
<https://writewhereithurts.net/2015/06/18/what-is-me-search/>.

Wright, Kathryn J. "ART THERAPY A STROKE OF THE BRUSH." *Journal of Nurse Life Care Planning* 21, no. 1 (2021): 39–43.

appendix 1

July 6, 2022

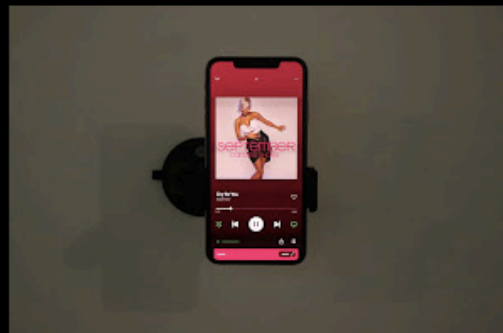
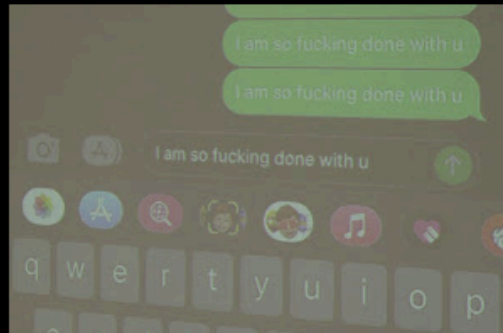
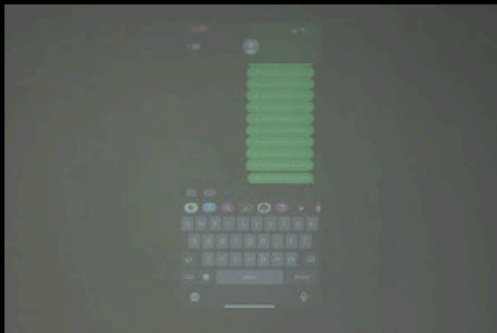




Figure 63. *whatever shit happens in my personal life, I bring straight to my practice* (July 6, 2022)
Liam Mooney.

July 7, 2022

Well damn that was a lot, I just got out of my examination and it went pretty alright hahahaha. No it went well, I think at one point of the chat with the examiners I just told them that I am so over this shit hahaha. Lol, it took me a while to actually come to some sort of an idea of what to exhibit. I think I got so overwhelmed in the gallery space these last four days (explains the amount of coffee drank) and I just felt like I had to reach some sort of expectations in the space - when all I needed to do was just be myself - **WOWOWOWOW**. Honestly, I had a full on break-down two days ago and just started all over again. One night the security guard came in and checked in on my whether I was okay, just because I was lying in the middle of the gallery staring at the ceiling. Whatever, it is what it is. What I have ended up with is pretty fucking special and like it truly is a representation of what I am encountering/feeling right now. **I AM JUST SO FUCKIN TIRED**. Like I haven't slept for three days straight but it feels like I haven't slept for three years. It has only been a year of this shit and honestly I am ready to nap. I also just want to run away from all men hahaha they fucking suck. Like is there anyone decent out there????? Fucking dramatic I am, I don't think that will ever change. 😊😊 I know that I said that nothing will ever be complete but honestly having to think about this man nearly everyday has put a bad taste in my mouth and even though it will constantly come back into my head I am ready to let go of this part of my artistic and academic journey. The writing is done, the artwork has been made, the feelings are still there, but I am for sure in a better place because of this process. **BOI BYE**. Feels so fucking weird that I am done, like I can't even believe it. Probably the proudest/most embarrassed/frustrated I have ever been with myself and I cannot wait to see what my life holds beyond this. Thanks for following along, I hope u enjoyed it bitches.

Love, Liam 💜

at Thursday, July 07, 2022 No comments:

Figure 64. the examination (July 7, 2022) Liam Mooney.