

## **SLIDE ONE**

In my presentation, I will focus on the eight professional opportunities that I will explore further in my post-university life.

Many months of incredibly useful lectures, exercises and discussions, have been the basis for formulating this list, and it all boils down to these.

## **SLIDE 2 - ART STUDIO**

Firstly, I decided that it is essential to my development to get an artist studio where I could think, focus and create. Additionally, to build a network of like-minded people and fellow artists and make friends.

I embarked on what turned out to be a challenging journey, discovering that there is no space anywhere, long waiting lists and a level of exclusivity, e.g Rouge requires a CV, cover letter, and a list of present and past shows - that is just to get on a waiting list, and Bankley studio in Levenshulme only accepts artist with a long-term professional practice.

## **SLIDE 3**

So after visiting THE YARD, which only had a studio at £750 a month, GRIT, both open days in Manchester and Stockport, both studios with no space, and not receiving any answer from PINK whom I emailed and called, I became frustrated with the impossibility of this task and the closed doors to someone like me who is not yet established.

## **SLIDE 4**

The very positive thing that came out of my proactive research is that I got linked up to ENTERPRISE, a body from MMU's Careers Service, who offer funding for people like me and can organise more visits to other studios.

I have been in touch with them about the funding and am feeling positive about receiving it once it's available.

## **SLIDE 5**

Eventually, I got really frustrated with how exclusive getting a studio is and decided to create my own.

I reached out to a local guitar repair man, Dan, who happened to have a large room to rent with two big windows in a building that also is home to a small gallery and a Men's Shed charity. I have not just found a space to do my art, my beloved studio, but another thing I was aspiring to become a part of - a community.

I am moving in at the beginning of May.

I am so pleased I found it and proud of myself for persevering.

## **SLIDE 6 - EXHIBITING LOCALLY**

One thing I really want to focus on is exhibiting.

I want to gain experience exhibiting my work, connect with local artists and simply share my art. After the last few years of somewhat successfully applying for open calls, I concluded that I prefer to channel my energy and money into exhibitions rather than open calls. I will still apply to a few selected and mostly free ones, but I find the process and rejection leave me feeling empty and demotivated. On the other side, when putting on the exhibition, whether I sell work or not, I always feel uplifted and buzzing from the experience of showing my art without judgment. Additionally, I love being able to connect to the audience directly and talk to them about my art, which coincidentally is another valuable skill I will develop when exhibiting.

I believe that this path will allow me to grow as an artist in many ways, build my confidence and help me reach a wider audience.

## **SLIDE 7**

I found this book in the library, which I consider to be the essential reading that will help me achieve this goal, and once I graduate and have more time, I will read it thoroughly, make notes and learn from it everything I can.

## **SLIDE 8**

I prepared an extensive list of places to exhibit in Manchester and Greater Manchester. I will explore each space in the upcoming years.

## **SLIDE 9 - STARTING MY OWN BUSINESS**

One of the options I am considering for my future employment is to start my own business. This is very funding, and finding the right space dependable, but something I definitely consider as an option.

## **SLIDE 10**

In my research portfolio, I outlined in detail where I can find

- **FUNDING FOR START-UP BUSINESSES**
- **SUPPORT/MENTORING WITH STARTING BUSINESS**

## **SLIDE 11 OPTIONS**

**- START ARTIST STUDIO SPACE**

**- FILM PROCESSING AND DARKROOM RENTAL BUSINESS**

For my potential business, I explored two options

**- START ARTIST STUDIO SPACE**

**-FILM PROCESSING AND DARKROOM RENTAL BUSINESS**

With a lack of and a constant need for artist studios which I mentioned at the beginning of my presentation, there is an everlasting hole in the market for more creative spaces for artists to develop and connect. I am confident that I could make it a successful business that would support me financially, grant me the freedom to develop my artistic practice, and most of all, provide an inclusive space for artists from all backgrounds and career stages.

The other idea is that I would like to start a film processing rental space, which, if successful, could evolve and expand into a darkroom rental business.

Based on my research, I made a list of rental darkroom businesses. If I secured funding and space, I would contact these locations and upon agreement travel to them to begin a conversation and shadow in order to learn about their successful model.

## **SLIDE 12 - OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the efficient ways to get noticed, gain experience, and perhaps even support/mentoring/feedback is to apply for respected photography competitions/open calls and attend photographic festivals.

## **SLIDE 13**

Following that thought, I applied for the New Contemporaries opportunity and currently, I am awaiting the results.

## **SLIDE 14**

I applied for a ticket to the Photo North Festival in Leeds and attended it on the 12th of April.

## **SLIDE 15**

It was a great experience, I connected with many interesting photographers and explored future options for workshops and volunteering.

## **SLIDE 16**

I also had an opportunity to attend my first portfolio review, which went very well, and I came out of it with an option to explore for my future career as a stage designer.

## **SLIDE 17**

Yet again, I made an extensive list I can refer back to, of opportunities to apply for in the future.

## **SLIDE 18**

Another field that I am interested in is web design. I designed my and my partner's website in WordPress, and I found that I really enjoyed it. I am aware that it is a well-paid job, and I think that between the fact that I like doing it (because for me it's creative) and that it could financially sustain my practice, I will be looking at taking things in this direction very closely.

## **SLIDE 19**

According to a government website, a web designer can make between 18-40 thousand pounds a year depending on the experience. The website also outlines what education could be helpful in obtaining that goal.

## **SLIDE 20**

My investigation also led me to government-funded web development courses, free WordPress and LinkedIn courses, skillshare and more.

## **SLIDE 21 - GET A CREATIVE PART-TIME JOB**

One of my aims is to get a creative part-time job that will support me financially but also allow me time to create. I am very open-minded to anything that comes my way, as each position will be a chance to learn something new and build my network.

I aim to apply for jobs but also make my own opportunities by writing to my potential employers, offering my enthusiasm, excellent work ethic and knowledge.

## **SLIDE 22**

I have made another list of places where I could potentially find a creative job, which I intend to explore shortly.

I feel confident that with the resources collected in this document, my passion, motivation and hard work, I will be able to find a creative job. At the moment, I am working once a week in a local pub which is enough income for me to relax and really focus all my energy and most of all, TIME into applying for jobs that resonate with me, make me happy and help me grow.

## **SLIDE 23 - RESIDENCIES, PLACEMENTS AND FUNDING**

One of the ways to get exposure and experience is to apply for residencies in and outside the UK to develop my practice build connections with a variety of artists, and be exposed to inspirations from different people and their crafts.

## **SLIDE 24**

I researched where I could find opportunities and placements

## **SLIDE 25**

I also did very extensive research on funding, I made a list of places where I could apply for grants, and I made a summary of all the talks I attended about funding, outlining the most important strategies and information.

I definitely plan to apply for Develop Your Creative Practice. I applied once, and despite not getting it, it was a very valuable experience. With a few years of experience, I gained since then and more resources like getting help with applications, I feel positive about it. Additionally, I will one by one explore other funds, as there are so many! I aim to designate one day a week to do so and systematically learn how to sustain my practice through funding.

## **SLIDE 26 - LEARNING NEW SKILLS - EXPERIMENTAL PHOTO FESTIVAL IN BARCELONA**

Last but not least.

As a part of my development and learning new skills, I wanted to go to this festival for a few years now, but I could never make it due to money/time-related issues. I have decided that no matter what, I am making it happen and in the year 2025, I am going to my dream festival!

At this even more than 300 international artists and photography lovers will meet to learn and discuss experimental photography: from the creation of cameras, lenses, and films to printing processes, intervention, and production of copies, exhibitions, and photobooks.

Among the organized activities are conferences, discussion panels, project presentations, workshops, portfolio reviews, dinners, concerts, and solo and collective exhibitions.

## **SLIDE 27**

The action I have to take to make it happen is very simple, I just have to be organised and think in advance to secure space.

- Buy tickets and accommodation for the festival
- Buy flights
- Look into the online courses that run by the festival associates throughout the year

## **SLIDE 28**

I will finish by mentioning my online presence, website, Instagram and LinkedIn.

I regularly check my website to update it with the latest projects and refresh whatever is necessary, moreover, I regularly blog about my projects, which helps me not just to document but also reflect on my practice.

My LinkedIn account is up to date, listing all my jobs and skills and I regularly seek out new connections and check out job advertisements, with alerts activated for positions that interest me.

Overall, I think that my online presence is very good, successfully showcasing my ideas and practice, and allowing me to connect and promote myself to wider communities. There is always a space for improvement, but I believe that I am in a good place to grow from.

## **SLIDE 27 - CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I feel that this unit prepared me well for my future endeavours, and I am feeling confident, positive and well-informed about my options as well as the support that I can access on my journey.

**THANK YOU**