

# BA ARCHITECTURE & FINE ART

## *COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ARTSWAY*

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# BA ARCHITECTURE & FINE ART *COLLABORATIVE PROJECT* ARTSWAY

28.04 // IMAGES

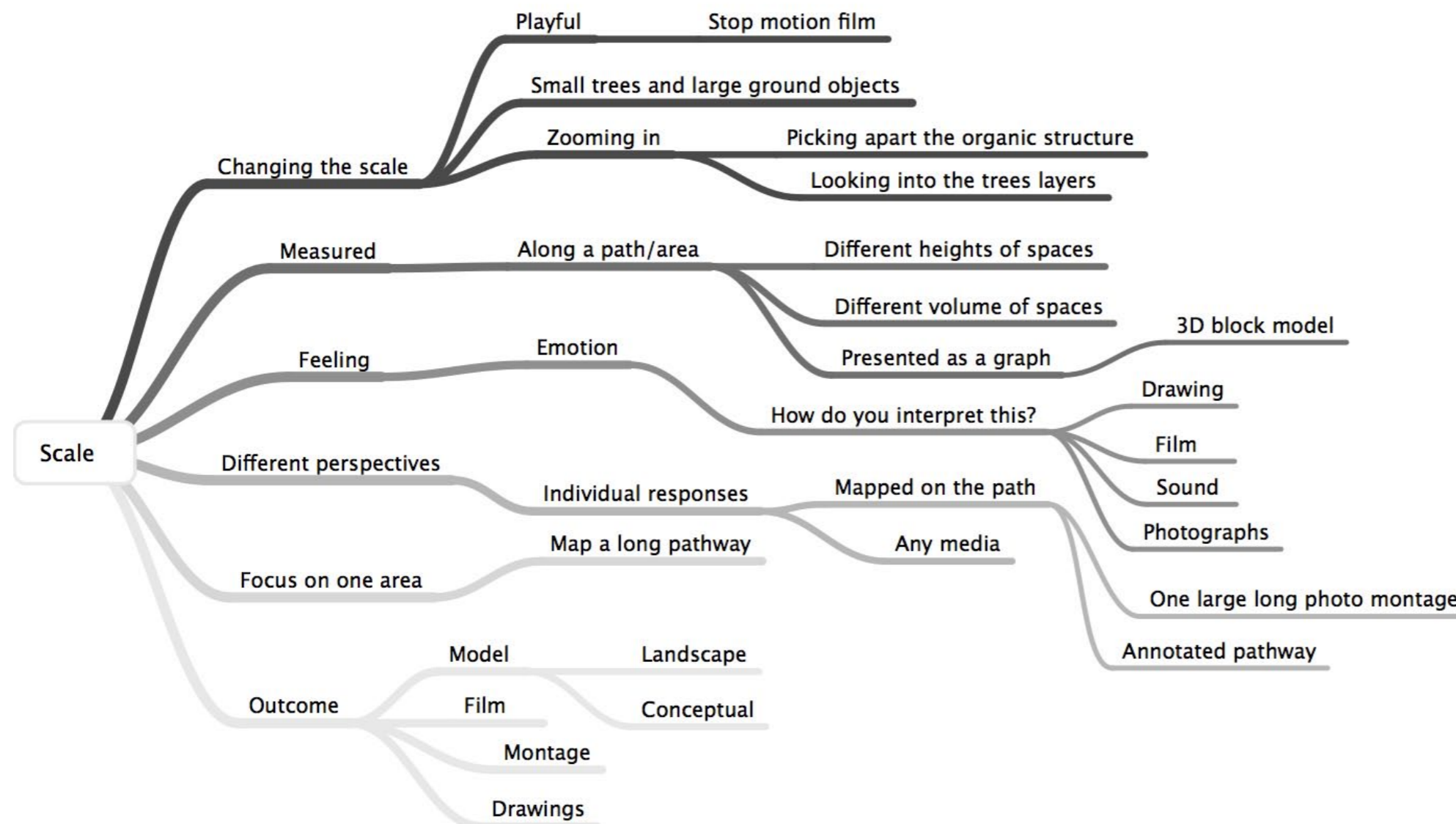
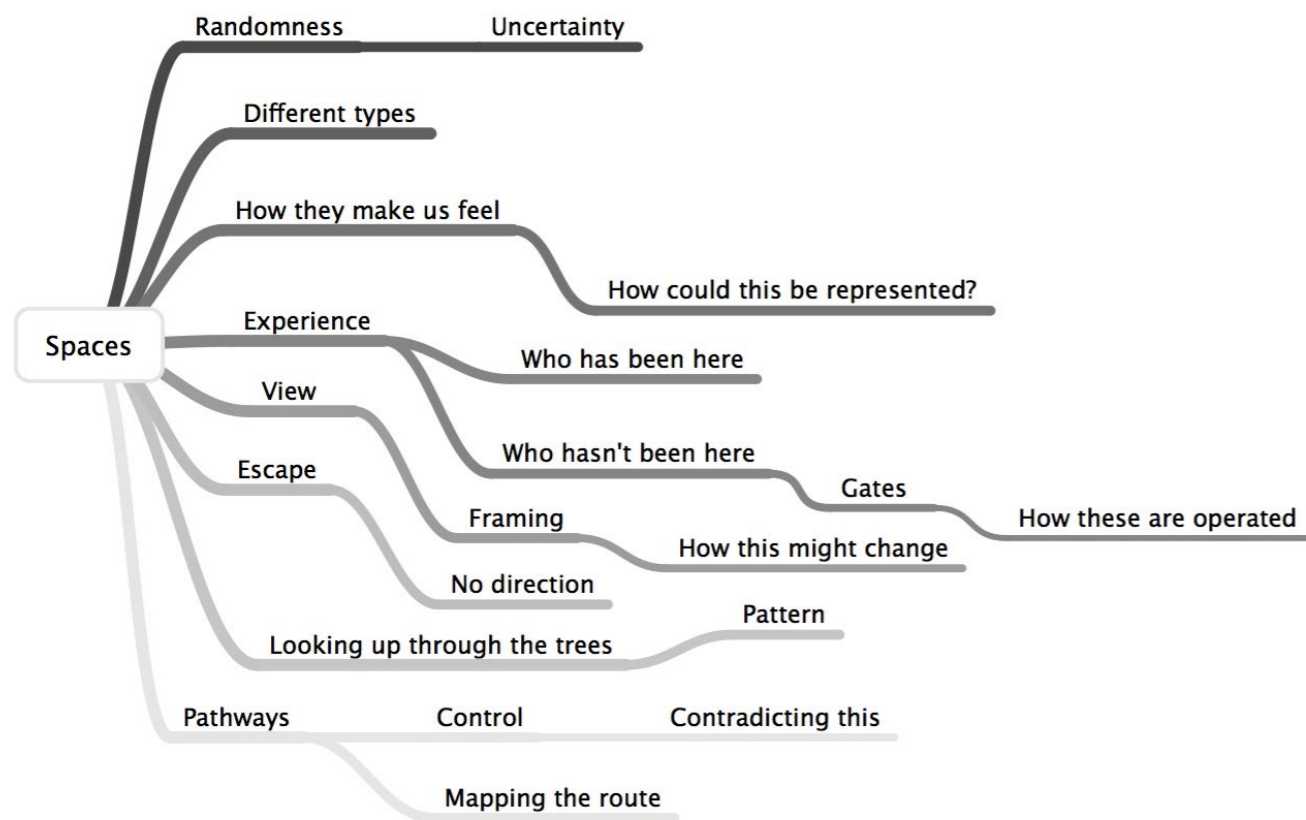
When walking around different areas of the new forest, images were taken where there were points of interest. Somewhat mapping the areas walked subconsciously, the difference in enclosure was immediately apparent. When digressing from the main footpath, the sense of exploration was felt, where a small slug was spotted on a trees branch. As the weather conditions were very wet, walking was made difficult to the boggy terrain. Here, noticing the ground conditions, the vast amount of decaying branches and felled trees were made. This began thoughts of the ecosystem and how nature is a constant cycle. This decaying element and regressing back to nature was also seen within small plants growing within brickwork. The different feeling of spaces were also seen, where dark wooded areas contracted shrubby gorse and open grassland.



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28.04 // INITIAL MIND MAPS



Reflecting upon initial inspiration, the first mind map was a result of a whole group discussion. Here main ideas were reviewed, sparking some initial thoughts of development. Once split into a smaller group, the theme of scale was quickly realised. This gave the project a main theme that could then be expanded upon. The different feeling of scale experienced within the new Forrest was the first topic debated, followed by the idea of changing this scale. Here, more ideas began to form, where changing the scale could be represented as a film. More ideas came when this changing of scale could be turning the large elements small, and the small elements large (fallen leaves, insects). To give this idea some meaning, perhaps the change in scale could be linked to how important the ecosystem is, from the tall trees to the small insects underfoot.



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28.04 // SCALE: LEAFS



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

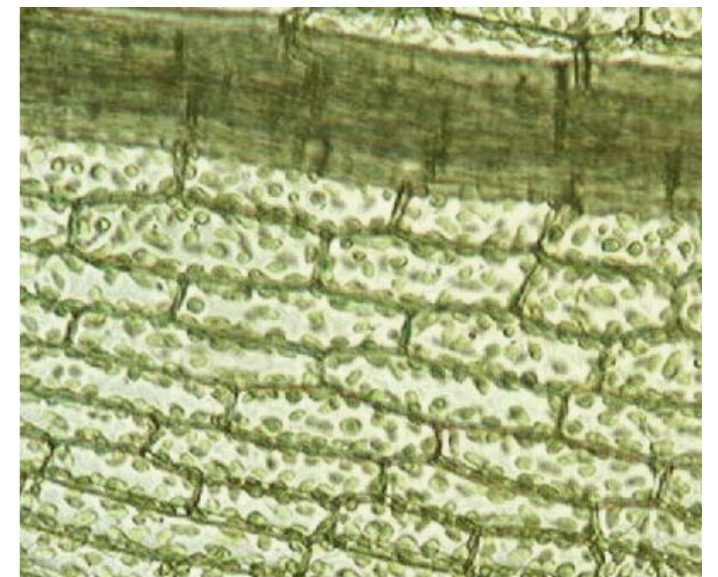


FIG. 3

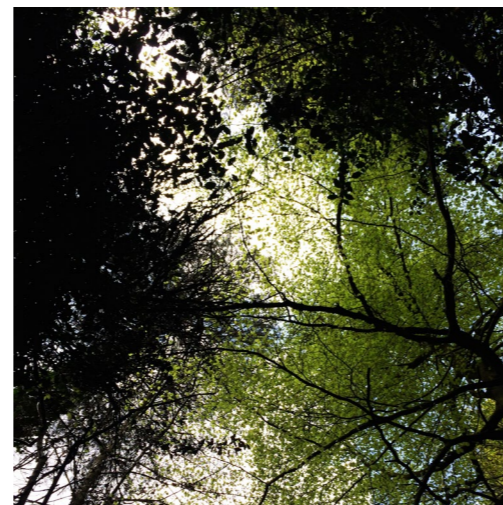
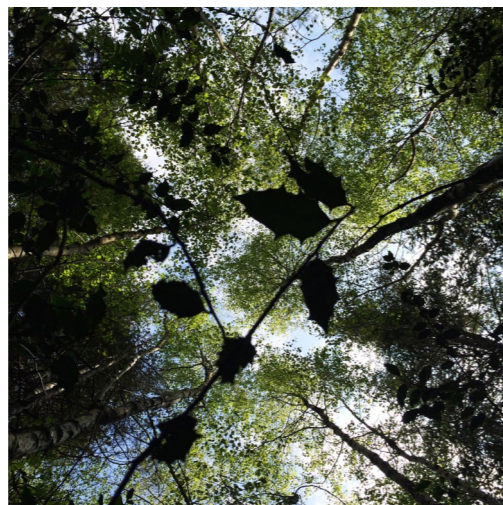
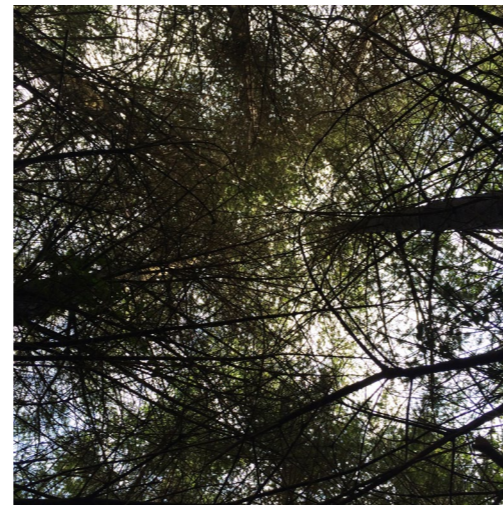
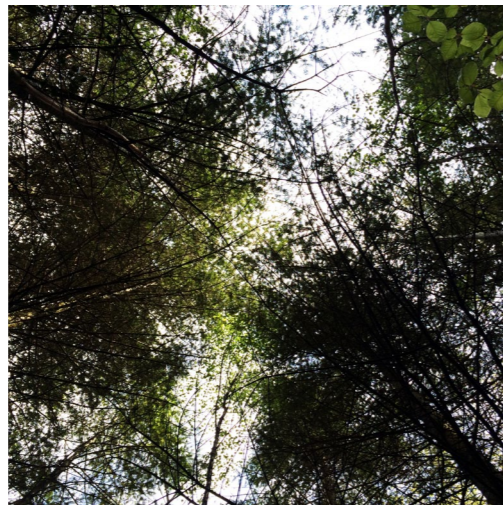
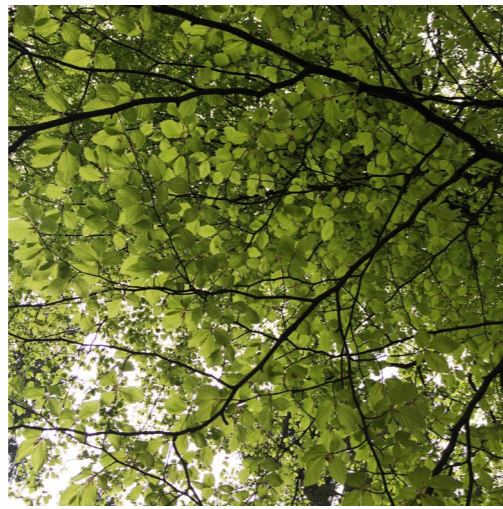
Reflecting upon the group discussion, the idea of scale has been applied to the focussing of a piece of nature, for example a leaf. The scale has been changed to realise the true structure of a leaf. What this shows is the beauty of natural structures and how these could be created into a piece of architecture. Perhaps this could be places within the environment, where a retreat could blend into nature. Alternatively, a series of these images could be made, where different species of leaves, bark, roots etc. could be shown. Maybe instead of using photography, these structures could be realised 3D, perhaps through small models. They could be displayed as a series of sculptural architecture, where the idea of making these forms life size could be realised. Materials form within the forest could be used to construct these sculptures.



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29.04 // IMAGES

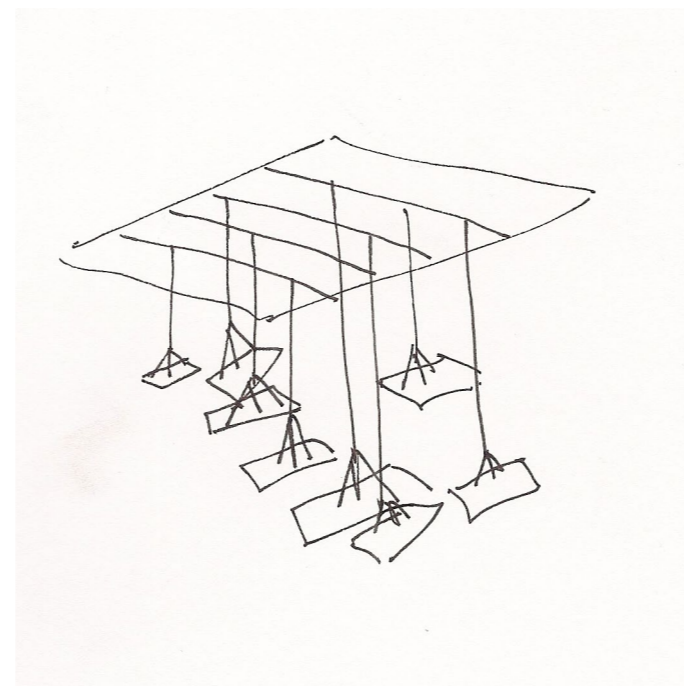
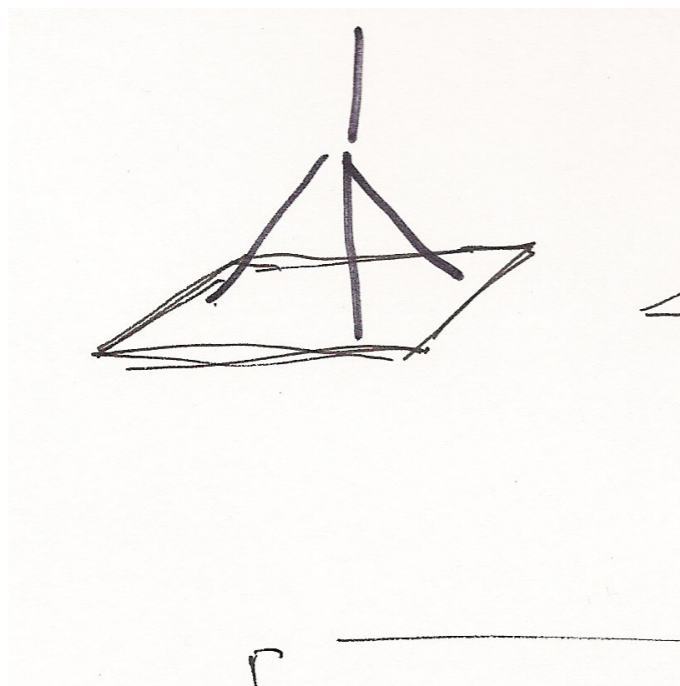
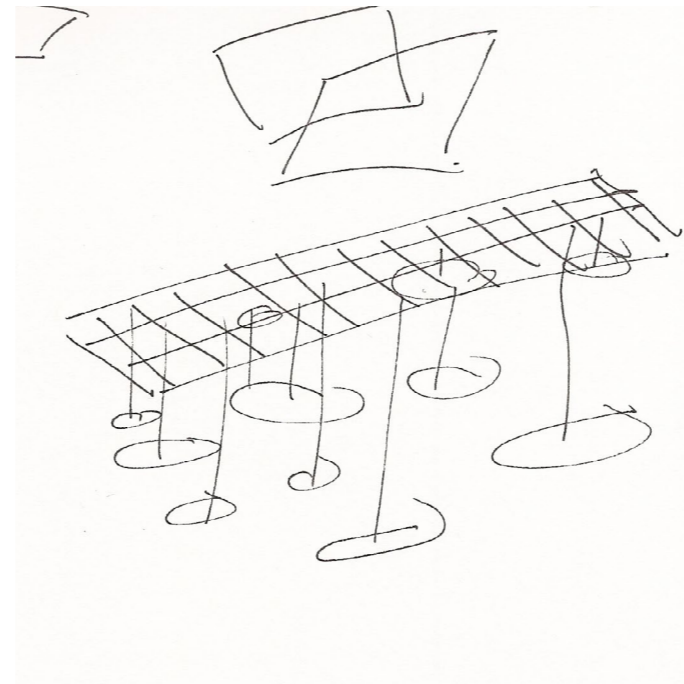
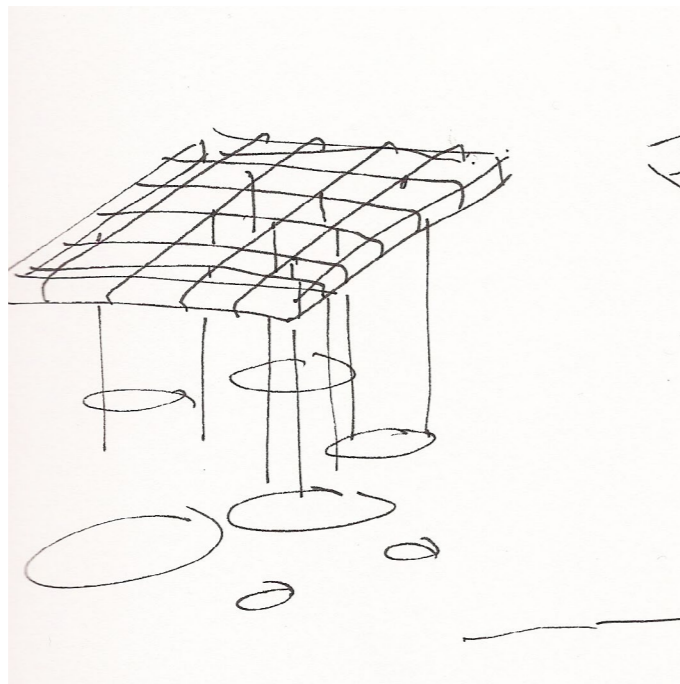
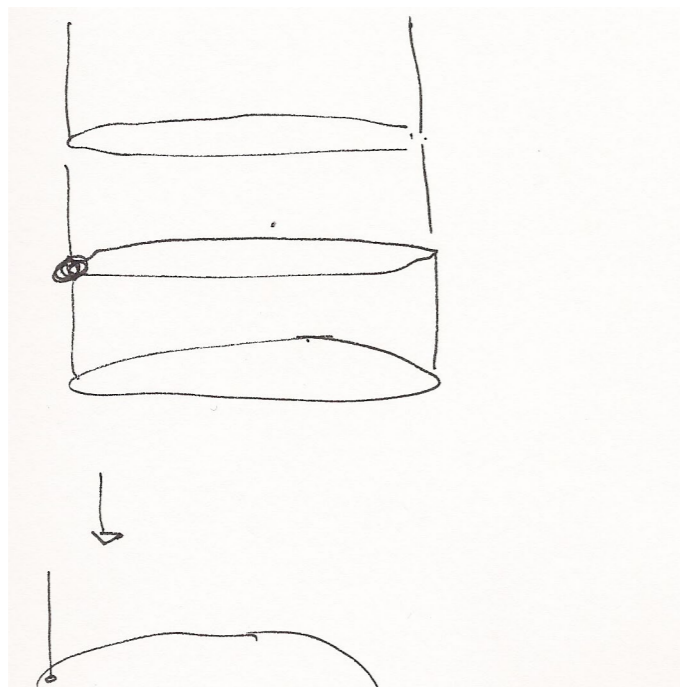


Discussing ideas developed from the previous meeting, it was felt that changing the scale of a place or object was rather obscure. The idea was limp and didn't have a lot of pathways to explore. It was decided that the same theme of scale would be explored, but through the emotional side. The idea of trying to recreate or represent the feeling of changing heights within the woodland was the initial concept. Going back into the woods allowed the opportunity to look at the different scales of spaces and get inspiration. The different heights of the trees were identified, where looking up through the leaves was rather beautiful. The layering of the leaves was also seen, where the different overlapping elements created interesting light and shade. Perhaps using layered sheets, suspended at different heights to recreate this feeling was proposed.



# BA ARCHITECTURE & FINE ART COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ARTSWAY

29.04 // INITIAL IDEAS



As a group it was decided that we wanted to bring the feeling of the different heights and layers within the gallery. Initial thoughts were perhaps using tubes to encase the different layers of acetate, where these were stacked one on top of the other. After a discussion, a better idea was to have overlapping separate elements, where these were suspended from the vaulted roof structure. Ideas of creating a frame, where wires would run across this to then be used as a grid to hanging elements from. Different sized disks made from acetate was the initial idea, but sure to the flexibility of the acetate the material was changed to perspex. Logistically, there would not be enough time to cut the acetate into circles, so squares were chosen. The hanging structure was also changed, where bamboo sticks could cross the ceiling, blending into the white blinds.



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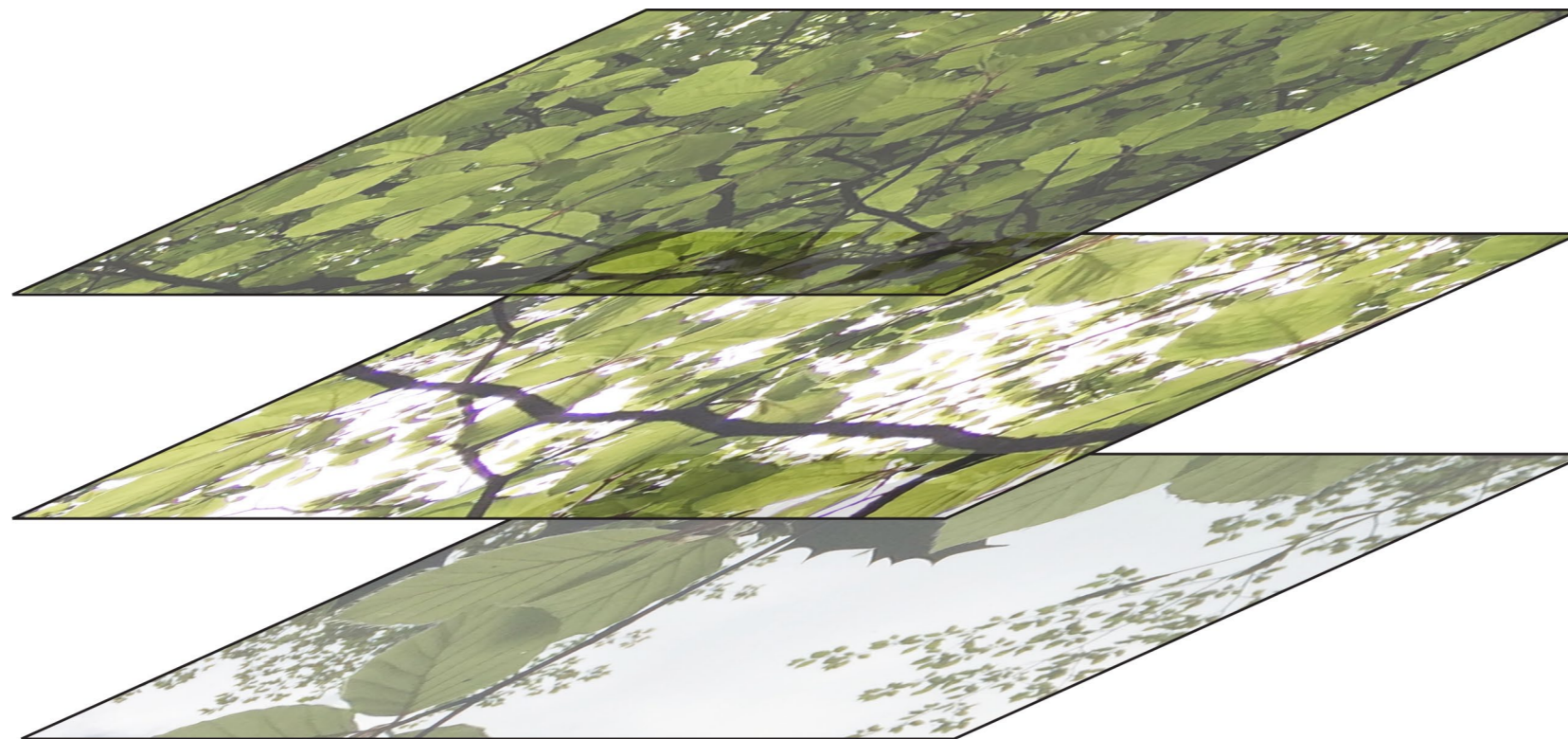
COLLABORATIVE PROJECT  
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29.04 // LAYERS

1

2

3



Size: Large

Density: High

Tone: Dark

Size: Large & Small

Density: Medium

Tone: Medium

Size: Small

Density: Low

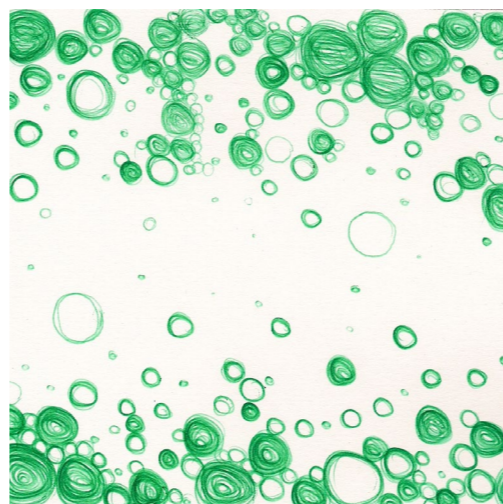
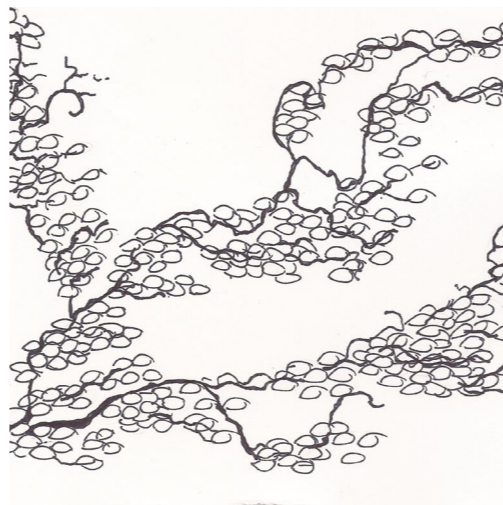
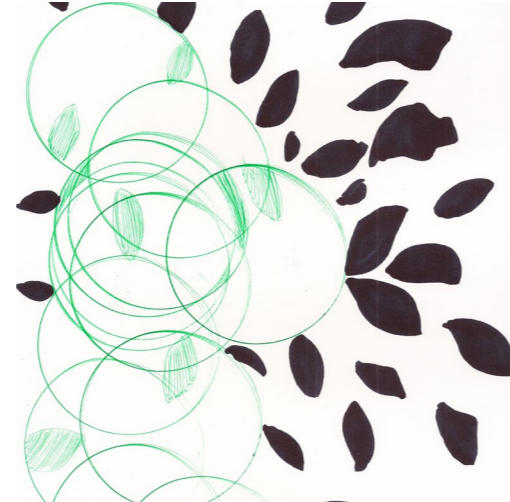
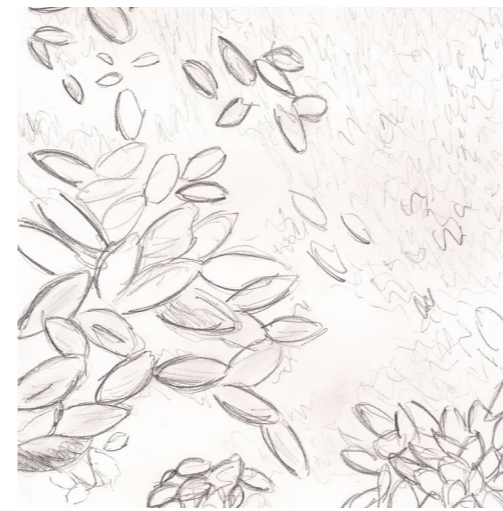
Tone: Medium & Light

A plan was then set and an equipment list was made. Contact was made to the workshop to get 10 A3 and 15 A4 pieces of perspex cut. All members of the group would bring in different drawing and painting equipment, allowing their to be great variety in the sheets made. Acrylic paint was key as this would stick to the plastic, as well as give differences in opacity when the light shines through. Leafs and sticks could be used too. Once the idea had been realised, planning into what to paint onto the sheets was discussed. With reference to the images taken, it was decided that there would be three main levels, each showing our interpretation of tones, textures, colours etc. This planning made it very clear what we needed to show to produce the same effect experiences within the woodland. This was key to the success of the installation.



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29.04 // DRAWINGS



To get an idea of what effects and paintings we could produce, experimentation with form and composition was made. Here, a variety of materials and drawing techniques were used to capture different levels of the woodland. What became very clear was the different drawing style of each person. This creates variety, where individual work from each person could be recognised. As a group we all really liked this idea and as a direct result of these drawings we wanted to bring this element to the final piece. What is also interesting is the different density of drawing. Some elements have been colours in block colour, whereas others have been very delicately drawn with care. Other techniques include using the round organic form of the leaves and changed this to circles. Charcoal gives a very rough effect with blurred edges.



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30.04 // PAINTING

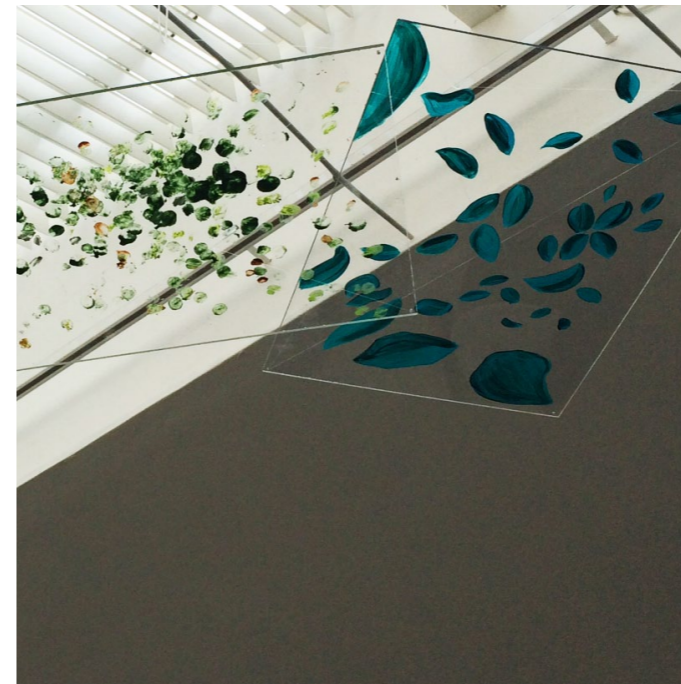


The structure of the installation had to be resolved before all the painting could be completed. The group was split, where one half constructed the scaffolding tower and the other began to set out the equipment. The scaffolding allowed access to the roof space which was previously impossible to reach. Testing out several jointing methods, it was decided that four small holes were to be drilled into each corner of the perspex sheets. Crossing diagonally, two loops of thin see-through string would bunch and meet up in the middle. A loop attaching this to the bamboo would complete the structure. Painting onto the panels ran smoothly, where all necessary equipment was available. These were set out to dry where they were then strung. Laying these out meant analysis could be made, where it was decided what layer each panel would be applied.



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30.04 // INSTALLING

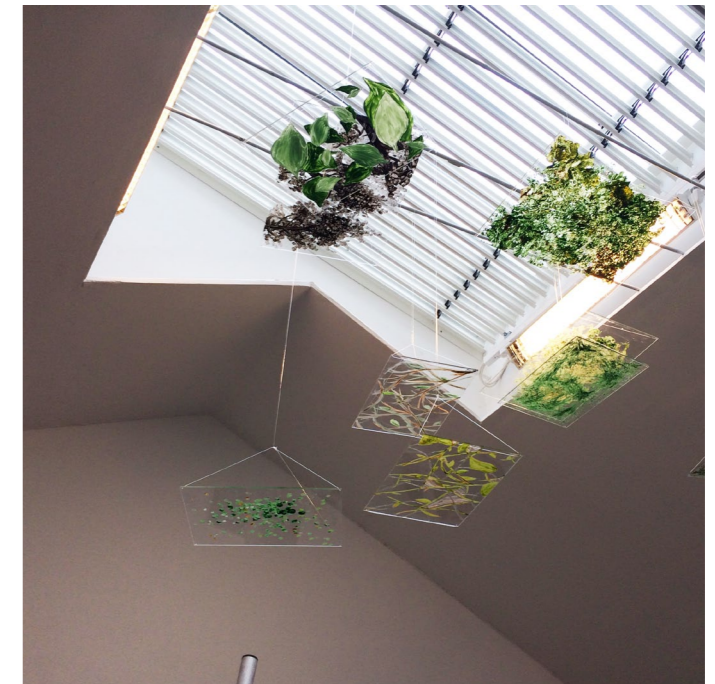
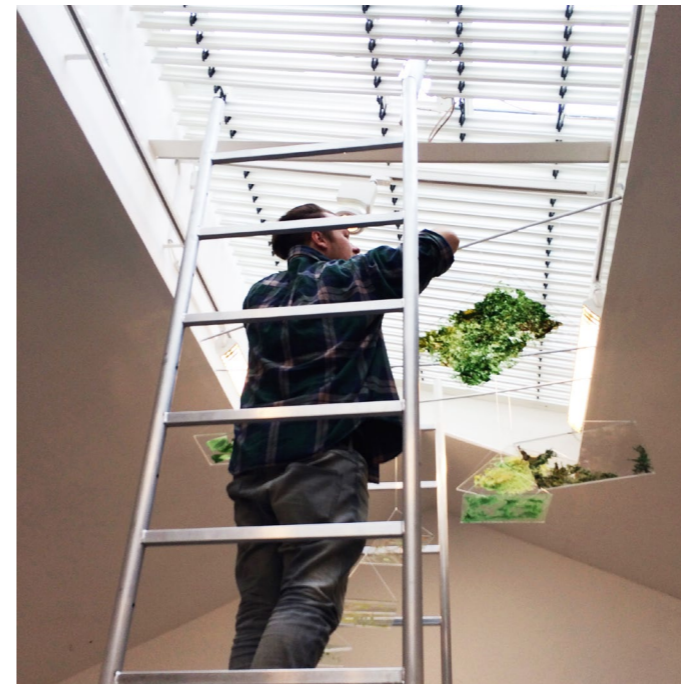


Stringing the two looped sections through the holes and attaching these four points together proved very difficult. The wire was very thin and hard to see. Once the whole team began doing this however it didn't take very long. Once tested out, two different sized painted panels were strung to the bamboo. However, when attaching this panel, the string snapped. It was decided that we had to change the string for health and safety. Still fitting two panels to the bamboo, an idea of the overlapping effect and the weight limit of the bamboo could still be tested. Still concerned about the snapping of the string, strong fishing line was eventually sourced. This meant that all 25 panels had to be restrung. Unfortunately the string ran out and only half was able to be completed. The next stages is to complete these attachments and then build the final installation.



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01.05 // INSTALLING

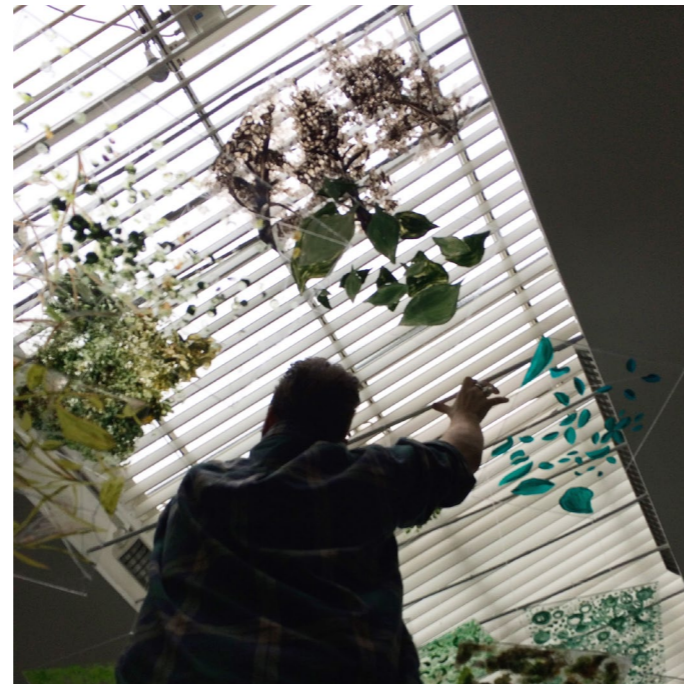


The final day of work before the exhibition opened saw the installation of the final canopy. More fishing line was sourced which meant all the panels could finally be strung. However, due to the tough line, it was difficult to tie it into knots. To overcome this issue, a hot glue gun was used to fuse the knots into place. This was very successful as the hot glue melted the plastic line, meaning a strong bond was made. Cleaning of the boards was also very important, where polish was used to ensure there were no marks. Installing the panels was a difficult process as the boards would swing around and they were being positioned high into the room. It was decided that each board would be hung onto the bamboo, where every member of the team decided what board would go where. These were then lifted into place very carefully and positioned.



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01.05 // INSTALLING



As the boards had been strung using the three layering form previously realised, it was very simple to decided what length panel would go where when each board was put into place. It was easy to slide each board along the bamboo, meaning the installation could be altered when in place. All 25 boards were hung up on 9 pieces of bamboo. As the exhibition was going to show all the groups work across the two courses, alternation had to be made to the positioning of the canopy. Here, it made more sense to move the installation centrally, where the exhibition would flow better. It was difficult to move all 9 pieces of bamboo, where the scaffolding tower had to be moved three times to finally shift everything over. Once in place, the canopy was the first noticeable piece, where people could move in and around it, underneath it, looking upwards and through.



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01.05 // FINAL OUTCOME



An ambitious project, where careful planning and teamwork was to key to its success. As a collaborative group, the mix between Fine Art and Architecture students was brilliant, where all members were enthusiastic about the project from the start of the week. The final piece somewhat shows the successfully mix of the two courses, where a strong structural form had been planned methodically, and the use of different mark making techniques proved a mix of structure and art. The final outcome was what we envisaged, where the team worked as one to make this project real. An enjoyable four days of work, teamwork, laughter and fun saw hardworking students create a successful, expressive piece of art within a professional exhibition. I would like to thank all members of the team, I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.



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// LIST OF FIGURES

All group images/drawings excluding:

Fig. 1. *Green Leaves* (2009) [online image]  
Available from: [http://www.hdwallpapers.in/walls/green\\_leaves-HD.jpg](http://www.hdwallpapers.in/walls/green_leaves-HD.jpg) [Accessed 28 April 2014]

Fig. 2. National Geographic. *Leaf Structure*. (2009) [online image] Available from: [http://www.photo-dictionary.com/photofiles/list/2090/2735leaf\\_structure.jpg](http://www.photo-dictionary.com/photofiles/list/2090/2735leaf_structure.jpg) [Accessed 28 April 2014]

Fig. 3. Essig, F. *Leaf Cells*. (2013) [online image] Available from: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-kZUpfGJCp60/UZY6FI-hqBBI/AAAAAAAAABHE/664zzVb3Fkc/s1600/Funaria+flavicans+2009-03-25-1+leaf+cells.jpg> [Accessed 28 April 2014]