Commensality

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commensal (com·men· sal)
adjective
1. (of two different species of plant or animal) living in close association, such that one species benefits without harming the other
2. of or relating to eating together, esp at the same table

Expressive technical drawings: Plan view & Isometric view

An exploration of connection through shared dining, centred around the round table.

Informed by exploration of dining rituals, interaction is conceptualised as three suspended scenes: love, gather, conflict. User engagement involved plan view filming of diners, augmented with responsive mark making.

These video stills were abstracted through expressionist and cubist drawing, refined in Illustrator and AutoCAD, then CNC cut.

The shapes are canvases for immersive projections and audio curated from engagement footage, archives, and dining sounds.

The technical drawings are layered collages, combining painting and CNC drawing. Portraying the composition of dining through expressive and architectural methodology.

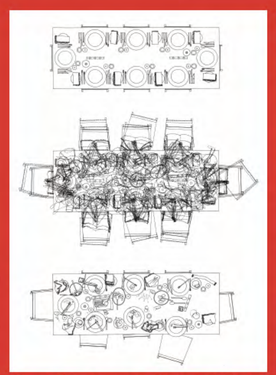
The installation invites viewers inside a scene, experiencing 'commensality' through sound, projection, and sculptural form.

Link to 'Commensality' documentary video:

research collage

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

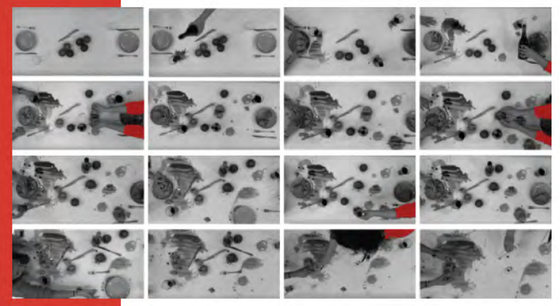
Interview with Art Director Greig Cockburn



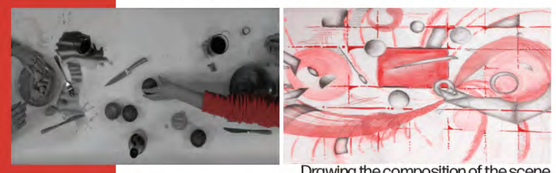
Sarah Wigglesworth: Disorderly Dining

Tim Walker: Inside/Outside

Self Led interview with my parents: Letting the participants drive the narrative



Part 1 & 2 of above view engagement task video: Dinner Party



Drawing the composition of the scene

Original commensality collage: A Society Section

Engagement Task: 1. Love 2. Indiifference 3. Conflict

Research into the act of dining and together-ness, the symbolism of the round table, the film industry, studying works that remould function and shape with abstract and figurative forms. Using engagement videos to create compositions and combining footage to create projection video.

research & film

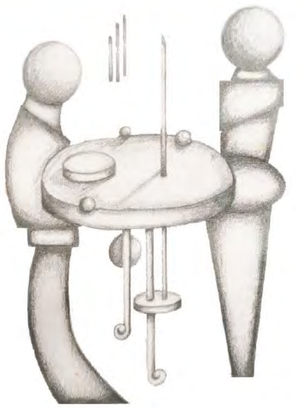
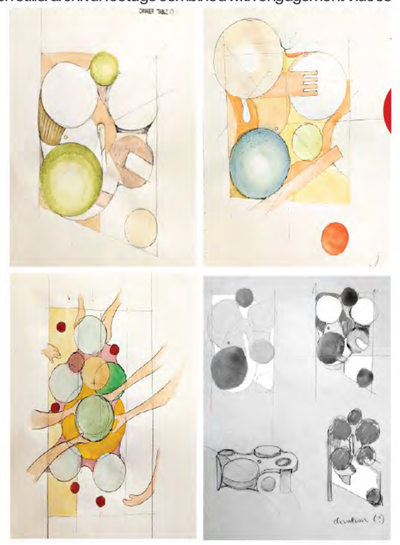
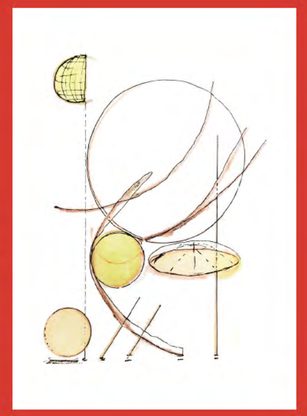


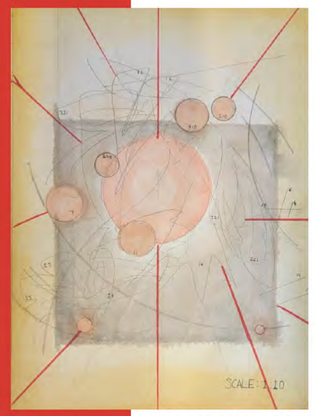
Table for Two: combining figurative forms with furniture

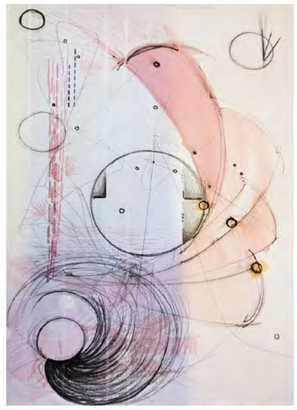
Projection stills: archival footage combined with engagement videos



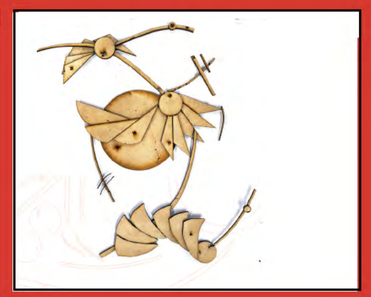
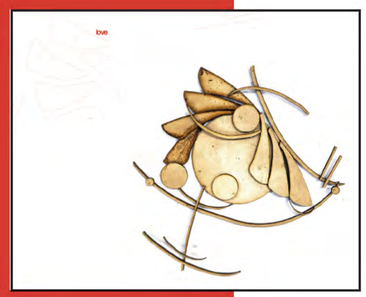
'Table Plans'

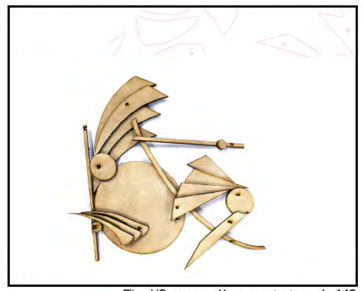






Development drawings and paintings for shapes and technical drawings



Final '3 scenes' lasercut at scale 1:10

Development and CNC drawing

Taking developed drawings into Illustrator and lasercutting them to represent abstracted scenes; Love, Gather, Conflict.

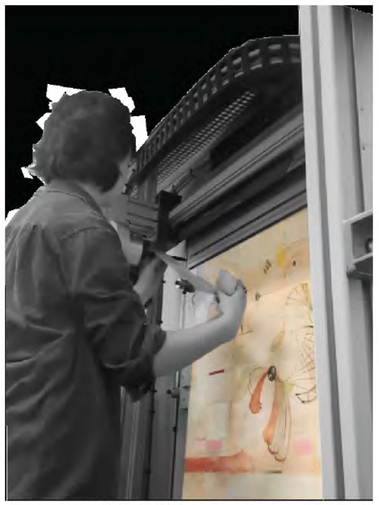
Using a CNC machine to draw technical drawings to combine with expressive painting and overlayed mediums.

Painting details of expressive technical drawings

Sketch model of plan view dinner table scene

Sketch models combining figurative forms and dinner table 'props'

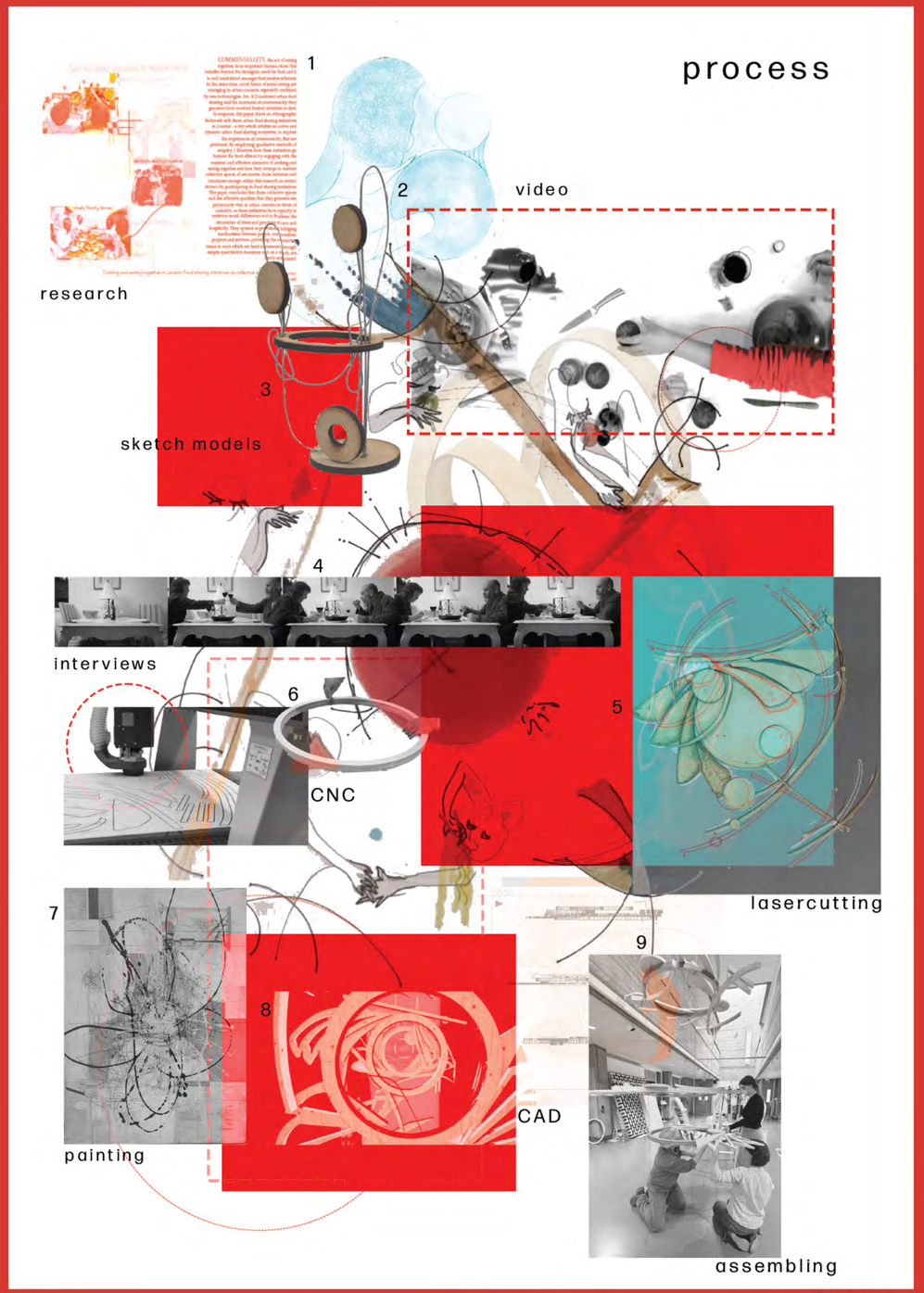
original Commensality sculpture



Using a CNC machine to draw technical drawings

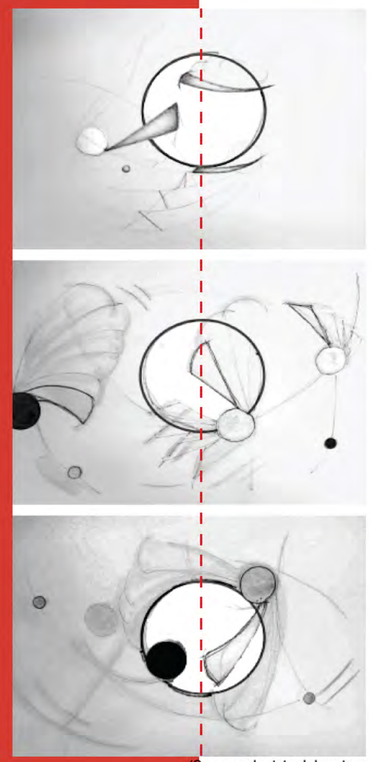
Plan view development expressive painting

Isometric view development contextual painting

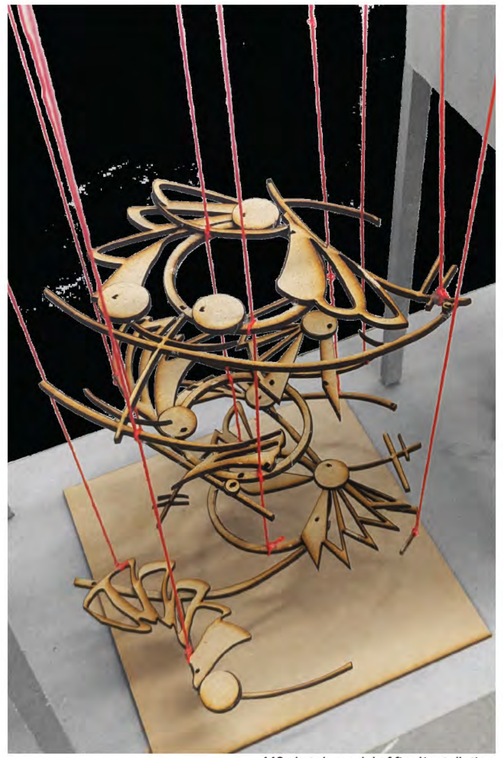


Process collage

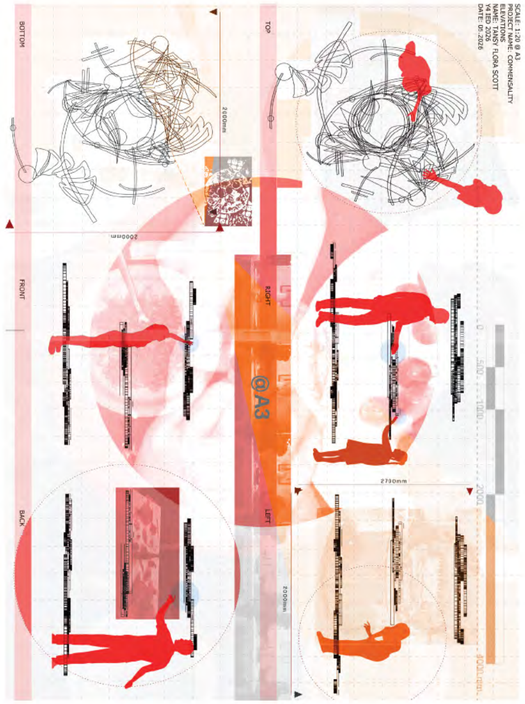
Overlaying engagement video audio with typical dinner table sounds. Glasses clinking, plates moving, cutlery and muffled voices speaking.



'3 scenes' original drawings



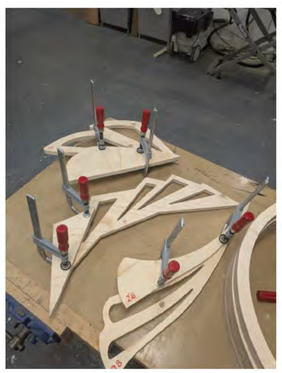
1:10 sketch model of final installation



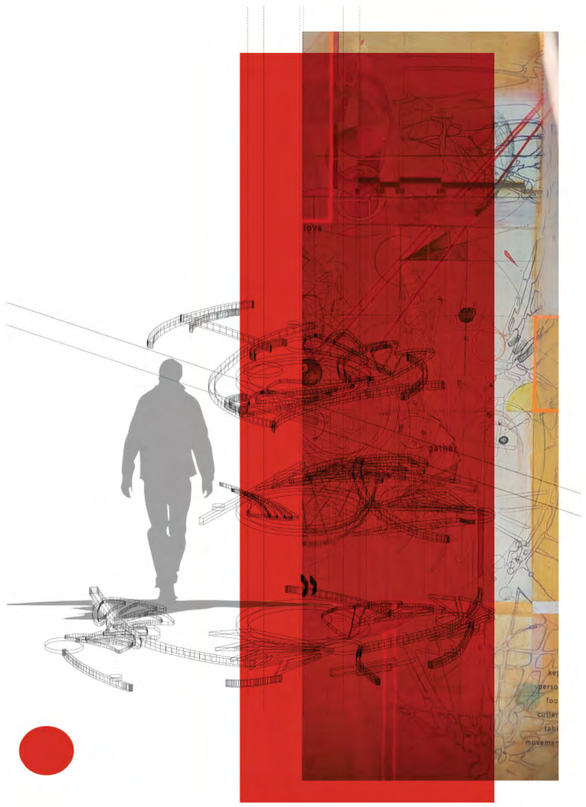
Digital technical drawings

process & assembling

Using a large CNC to cut out elements, numbering and assembling shapes to form each scene.



Sanding and assembling CNC cut pieces in exhibition space



Digital isometric view

final outcome

Materiality:

The shapes 'gather' around the polished rings, representing elements moving and interacting around a table.

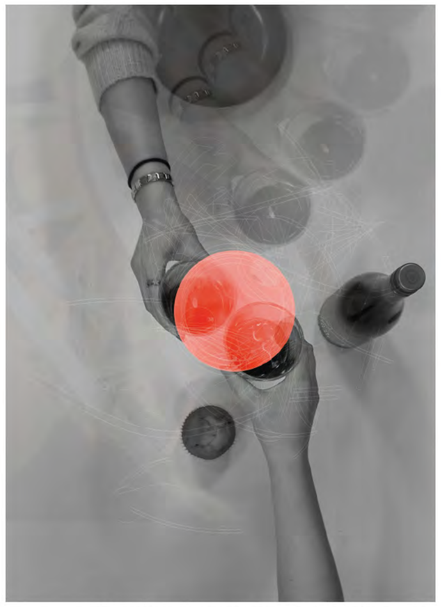
The rings are hollow to show the scenes below and come together to create a new composition.

The projections are mapped out so that they follow each shape. The rings represent the round table. The heart of the environment is here.

The birch plywood is polished, contrasting the softwood ply of the other shapes and representing the materiality of furniture (a wooden dining table).

Each individual shape is numbered so that it goes together with its fellow elements - like pieces of a puzzle. The numbers match the elements to each other on each scene . They are red to highlight connection, drawing attention to how each piece relies on the other to create the interaction.

Red symbolises the gallery 'red dot' to rephrase human connection as an art form.



Projection video with oerlayed sculpture plan view

Final installation with projections in exhibition space