

ART 101
FINAL PROJECT

PART ONE

Reflecting on Content

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED

- I learned that art is not simply painted canvas work. I see it all around me.
- The ART21 and Craft in America were particularly eye opening for me. Whether it was from basket weaving, to boat making, to unusual pottery, I see art all around me. I am much more appreciative of art in all forms now.

WHAT SURPRISED ME MOST

- I have been most surprised by my own negativity and judgement of art.
- Often times I found myself thinking, “That isn’t art!” But by the end of the segment, I would have a newfound appreciation and respect for the artistic creation.
- I never thought I had those beliefs, and it surprised me to watch them surface and have to deal with them. It took a lot of self reflection.

CONNECTIONS TO MY DAILY LIFE

- I competitively horse ride, and I have found myself seeing the artistic aspect in the sport I have enjoyed for 20 years.
- Using my body, “manipulating” my “material”, and seeing the beauty in it. I do it for myself, and I do it for an audience; I find this example connecting to my daily life.

WORDS OF WISDOM

- That art can be ugly. From a discussion in Week 3, a man said “art can be ugly.” I think this should be extended to more aspects of life.
- It’s okay for life to be ugly, or just not the stereotypical beauty that we want. It doesn’t take anything away from it. It is still art.
- This is something that I want to believe more firmly. I think I will be less afraid of making mistakes and more prone to just *trying* art, regardless of my skill level.

WHAT IS ART?

Original:

I think art is a natural human desire that combines expression and beauty. I think that art can be anything that people find reflected beauty, meaning, or emotion in.

Reflecting Back:

I don't think I would change my definition. I think my words still stand; but reading back on it, I think my words now hold much more meaning than I originally intended.

PART TWO

Choosing Favorites

FAVORITE WEEKLY TOPIC

- My favorite weekly topic was Week 3, Storytelling. I love writing and film, and this one was the most intriguing to me as it spoke to an already natural interest inside myself.

HISTORICAL CONNECTION

- The *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art* resonated with me the most. It resonated with me due to how much it combined history, social justice, and politics. The men involved used their artwork to inspire political change.

PROCESS

- I loved learning about stick sculptures from Week 4. The combination of art and natural landscape using materials in nature created a sort of organic feel that I think otherwise would be difficult to create. I would be interested in trying this artistic process out myself one day.

ARTIST CONNECTION

- The artist that resonated with me the most was Karen Carnes, from Craft in America. She creates pottery, both functional and non functional. Her pottery was rugged, naturalistic looking and something I would enjoy displaying in my own home.

PART THREE

Following Your Curiosity

MY TOPIC:

- I chose to do more research on energy and spirits within wood and natural materials.
- I chose to do this because it is not a topic I know a lot about, and when one of our videos mentioned it, it immediately piqued my interest.
- I believe energy can heavily influence human lives and it is important to be aware of it and how it affects us; this is why it is important to learn about.
- My research brought me to learning more about Feng Shui.

FENG SHUI

- Wood is one of Feng Shui's five elements.
- It is associated with both masculine and feminine energy.
- It corresponds to growth, creation, nutrition, and the beginning of life.
- It also can be compared to a network, specifically like the root system under a tree.

FENG SHUI

- One of the most interesting things I learned in this project is that one can have *too much* wood in their home.
- Too much wood implies aggression, ruthlessness, and inflexibility.
- As all things in life, there is balance and the energy in wood must be balanced.
- One way to balance wood, suggested by many Feng Shui practitioners, is to incorporate metal somehow into the piece.
- This can also be achieved by hanging metal over the wood. I imagine this to look like a chandelier, or light fixture

MY HOME

- I began looking at my own home.
- There is a lot of natural wood in my home.
- I really enjoy the “natural” minimalistic feel.



After learning about this, I will incorporate some more metal. I bought a tall golden metal lamp that I think will help offset the wood-heavy furniture.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- Learning about this topic is important for everyone.
- Even if one does not believe that wood contains spirits, there is a very real effect from the furniture in your home. You are surrounded by it daily.
- Learning about how best to balance natural material can be learned and incorporated by any artist, home owner, or person in the space they live in.