

ART 101 FINAL PROJECT

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by Abigail Bishop

Part One

Reflecting on Content



“Chzech Modernism Mirrored and Reflected Infinitely” by Josiah McElheny

The Most Important Thing I Learned

The best part of having such a wide variety of content each week, was that over the course of the summer I was exposed to so many different types of art and artists. Each week gave me the opportunity to learn about a new concept of art, and now by the end I feel well rounded and as though I could hold a conversation with someone in the art world and not feel completely silly. This has given me more confidence to be able to act on my curiosity and explore the world around me.



Black Mountain College

What Surprised Me Most

I was most surprised at my interest in crafts. I thought I was a high art kind of girl when I started this course, and I secretly dreaded having to watch a full episode strictly on craft making each week. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I actually love crafts, and I just hadn't given them the appropriate amount of appreciation in the past. I am grateful for this discovery because there are so many ways to incorporate crafts into everyday life, and thereby enjoy art as a living thing instead of just something to go see in a gallery.



Hystercine Rankin

Connections To My Daily Life

Because art is around us all day, having a way of interpreting and interacting with it is extremely important. Art also allows us to take a peek into another mind or culture, so being able to appropriately view assess art has allowed me to be more knowledgeable about the world around me. The variety of art that we were exposed to and hearing from the artists that made it has also made me more open minded when it comes to pieces that I am not inherently attracted to.



"Sound Suit" by Nick Cave

Words of Wisdom

Over this course, we have seen artists work in community, alone, or somewhere in between. There is wisdom in knowing yourself and knowing what you need to be creatively, emotionally, and spiritually fulfilled. The logistics might change over the course of your life, but the result of authentic living is being fulfilled in your work and your life.



Barbara Kasten, *Construct XV-A*, 1982

What Is Art?

Original:

Art is human-made (or possibly animal? I've seen monkeys and elephants paint, but I think for this purpose I will stick with human) visual media, music, or otherwise, that evokes an emotion or strikes the consumer as beautiful. I believe that art can be difficult to define because various artists have pushed the boundary of what makes something art. For example, Andy Warhol made massive prints of tomato soup or Marilyn Monroe, which was not, to my knowledge, intended to be either beautiful or emotionally profound, so much as it was meant to exploit the concept of celebrity and commodity. This is also art, because it makes us think differently using visual media.

Revised:

Art is any type of visual or aural media that is created intentionally. Art can evoke an emotion, and it can be beautiful, and it can be either of those things independently. The definition of art is vague because the nature of art is to explore, express, and influence the world in which it was created. This requires the definition to be able to expand and morph with the boundaries of human creativity.

Part Two

Choosing Favorites



"Rack of Aprons" by Theaster Gates

Favorite Weekly Topic

Art and nature was my favorite topic we covered. I loved to see the ways the artists portrayed and worked with nature to create their art. There were some who fell into the topic by the nature of their materials, and some who were included because of the thought process behind their art.



“Neukom Vivarium” by Mark Dion

Historical Connection

Pat Courtney Gold makes baskets in the same tradition as her ancestors, the Wasco Indians. She has recovered and preserved important information about the methods and materials used by her ancestors, and also infuses her work with her own creativity. This is my favorite historical connection because she is doing important work towards undoing the damage done by colonialism to Native American traditions.



“Sturgeon Basket” by Pat Courtney Gold

Process

Patrick Dougherty creates sculptures out of sticks, meant to be both an interactive fixture in the community and yet ultimately temporary. His process for creating his community installations heavily relies on the community in which it is built for help sourcing materials and putting them together. The result is a beautiful piece of art that many people can enjoy and feel a sense of pride in.



"A Sight To Behold" by Patrick Dougherty

Artist Connection

Theaster Gates creates art out of Chicago. Taking the raw, natural resources of his city, he develops valuable art out of the very material that made the community less 'valuable' before. He displays both artistic creativity and community development genius as he creates artwork out of these refused materials to use as bonds to fund the rehabilitation of his community. He has enriched his community and created opportunities for traditionally disenfranchised populations in Chicago through his art. I believe that of all the material we have covered this semester, his example was the most creative and admirable of them all.



Theaster Gates by Mark Peckmezian

Common Threads



“91k FB 100” Kay Sekimachi

Each of my favorites share common threads of community, history, and using natural resources. Those values are the motivating force propelling them toward their unique choices of materials, process, and style. For example, while the natural resources being used by Dougherty look entirely different from those used by Gates, each of them is still sourcing their mediums from the community in which they work. And while the history of Gold and her Native American traditions differs greatly from the history of Gates and his work rooted in the Black history of Chicago, each of them draws on their experience and lineage to create their art.

Part Three

Following Your Curiosity



“My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love” by Kara Walker

Telling Stories with Pictures: Ancient Greek Terracotta Krater

One of my favorite videos was on the Ancient Greek burial vase, and the corresponding video about how they would have been able to produce the colors on those vases using heat and oxygen in the kiln.



Why It is Interesting and What We Can Learn

What really piqued my interest about the Terracotta Krater is the design.

The artist was able to convey mourning and grief without providing faces to the figures, and I immediately thought about the influence that style of drawing has had on the art world for millennia. I will go into a bit more detail of some of those parallels in a few slides, but that is initially what caught my attention.

Looking at modern art, I see that we have learned a lot from this minimalist style of illustration. Being able to convey our message with the least amount of details possible is an exercise in creativity and technical skill.

I also watched the video of the children's book author and illustrator, Jon Klassen, and saw how this is a very relevant topic to many artists today.

Subject Matter and Purpose

The Terracotta Krater is a massive grave marker that is decorated with geometric designs and a depiction of the deceased, mourners, and a battle scene. The illustrations are narrative, as they tell a story about the deceased and those he left behind. It also gives us information about the social status of the person for whom it was made. According to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the battle scene depicted was most likely intended to depict the deceased's ancestors. It was made to not only mark a gravesite, but also to show the wealth of the family, and to give viewers an impression of the importance of the deceased to those who loved him.



Terracotta krater, ca. 750-735 B.C.



Detail of the burial scene. Pictured here are mourners surrounding the deceased.



Detail of the battle scene. Pictured is a chariot being pulled by six horses, flanked by two soldiers.

Techniques

The pot would have been thrown on a wheel, most likely in sections to later be assembled.

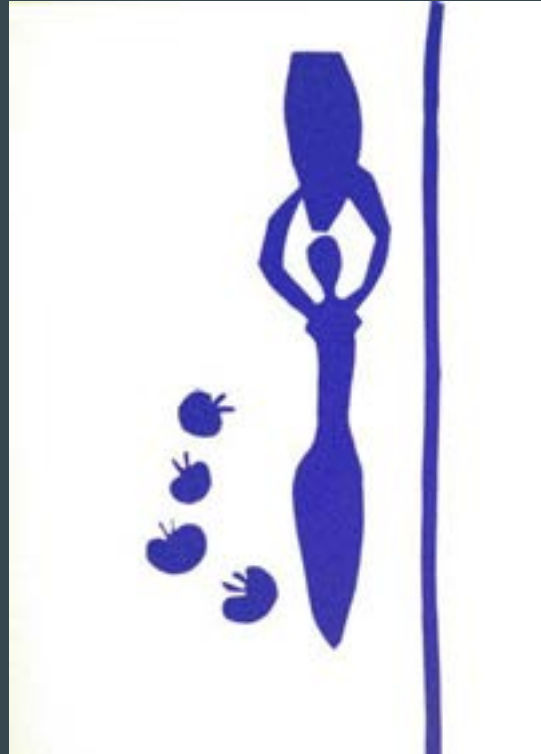
The designs were sketched in charcoal, and then the areas the artist wanted to be black would have been painted over with slip.

Then, as the pot was fired a skilled craftsman would have methodically increased the heat in the kiln from about 1500 degrees to close to 1700 degrees. They would have then gone through a process of depriving the kiln of oxygen to create a carbon rich environment, thus imbuing the areas painted with slip its black color.

The style of visual storytelling the artist used to create the Terracotta Krater has influenced art into the present time. In the final section of this week's Making Connections I watched the interview with Penelope Dullaghan. This is one example of an artist who uses minimal detail to create a strong visual effect.



Greek art has influenced portraying form in modern art. One example I found particularly poignant were the similarities it shares with Matisse's Blue Nudes.



Current Significance

Greek art has influenced the development of Western art in such a pervasive way that it would be impossible to quantify. I believe that it is important for artists to understand the history of art, especially art at its most fundamental stage. It is valuable that we preserve art and retain how it was made so we can have historical context for our current understanding.

It is also worth noticing that while the development of Western art has, until now, had a relatively straight path of lineage, it is now morphing into a beautiful global collaboration with more influences from Native American, African, Asian, etc., sources, as we have seen over the course of this summer. So while this tradition has permeated our understanding of what makes “art”, we can now grow from that narrow definition into the rich, varied, and multicultural experience that modern art has to offer.