

Week 3: Art & Memory

- 1. *The episodes of Craft in America and Art21 you watched this week examined the role of memory in art. Writer, Siri Hustvedt said that "Every painting is always two paintings: The one you see, and the one you remember." Tell me about a piece of art that stands out in your memory. Describe it and then tell me why it was memorable.***

The first piece of art that stood out in my memory is Monet's water lily's. I had the privilege of seeing this art in person two years ago. I do not have a great photographic memory so I will do my best. The art wraps around the walls, framed by white. The painting itself is full of texture and many hues of blue and green water that appears to be moving. If I remember correctly, it is framed by gold. This painting was beautiful and the sheer vastness of it was amazing to see and it is the reason it was memorable for me. Pictures online do not encompass the feeling of being "wrapped" in art.

- 2. *In the "Memory" episode of Craft in America, we saw artists/craftsmen who were passing down traditions in making and also making objects that could be passed down through generations. How does this resonate with you? What would you want to pass down? Or what method of making would you want to learn from another?***

This episode fascinated me. The fact that for many people, especially with challenging histories such as the African American woman who was a descendant of slaves and the Native American woman, art is a way to connect them to their pasts. It is a way of honor, of tradition, and respect. This resonated with me. If I were to learn a skill, I would enjoy learning how to shape glass. It looks so beautiful while you are working with it. I love the function of glass but I also love the beauty and the open creativity. I am unsure what I would pass down. My family, for many years, has done blue collar jobs that include construction work and wood working. I would love to follow in my father, and grandfathers footsteps and learn how to create functional beauty.

- 3. *As you consider the content you've engaged with this week what was (a) most important, (b) most interesting and (c) most challenging example from the course material?***

The most important thing I learned from this week was the Native American women's relationship with basket weaving. I thought it was important when she said she was rebirthing a tradition that she otherwise would never have known; her history, in many ways, was taken from her and her ancestors. By learning how to basket weave, she was reclaiming that history and forging her own path.

The most interesting thing I learned this week was the gentleman from the Art21 video. He created a piece of work that's recreated the homes and schools from his childhood, but left blank the parts he did not remember. This really stood out to me and makes me want to

take on this challenge myself. I had a very tumultuous childhood, moving houses 26 times and schools 7 times. I think this would be interesting and beautiful for me to do myself.

The most challenging thing this week was understanding the article, "How the Art World Caught Archive Fever". The writing did not make much sense to me and it is hard for me to understand how this is a form of art. I had to read the article several times over.

4. *What grabbed your attention this week that you want to learn more about? Why?*

Something that grabbed my attention is realism art. I have never tried it before but the video, "The Case for Realism" made it seem important and interesting. I would love to try it.