

## ART 357: Understanding Children's Art

### *Kramer Formed Expression Handout*

Looking at your midterm image and implementing Kramer's criteria for *formed expression* give consideration to the following questions:

1. Explore your Motivation and Intention:

I want to depict childhood as a journey, guided by nature and nurture. The steps symbolize the stages of development, and are bound by two of my grade school science books- *The Human Brain and Senses* and *The Air Around You*. I plan to incorporate a mini composition book to represent "coming of age" or reaching adulthood. The tree is a symbol of both family dynamics and genetics.

2. a. Explore the image from an aesthetic standpoint? What works visually? What needs adjusting?

The composition is balanced, and I was able to transform the books and use their structure to my advantage. I used hot glue to bind the pages which was messy, so I plan to clean it up. I also plan on covering the steps with pieces of cardboard I can then paint over smoothly.

- b. What personal growth (or meaning) can be garnered from this image?

I have not done a lot of three dimensional work in the past, so this piece presented its challenges. It was interesting and exciting to work with new techniques, tools, and mediums. I always like to enjoy the evolution of my ideas; how they change as I go, sometimes becoming something entirely different than what I originally had in mind. I definitely had to adapt to the process, but that coincides with my overall concept in a way.

3. How can this be a point of departure for future explorations? (Be specific)

This has opened new doors for me, and inspired me to try different things as an artist. I have always limited myself to two dimensional work- graphite, pastels, paint- which I love, but there are so many other ways to bring my ideas to life. I think taking risks and stepping out of my comfort zone will allow me to truly unleash my creative power.