

Installation Art Class Goals and Project Descriptions, Fall 2014

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Writing

Many installations seek to create a place in which the viewer is immersed in physical sensations (sight, hearing and even touch, smell and taste). We will start with a short writing assignment based on a sensory memory you have of a place from your past to get ourselves in tune with our senses. Base this writing on a particular place. Perhaps a certain event occurred there, or perhaps a person is connected to that place in your mind. Make the description of the place the dominant factor and the event or person hinted at or mentioned more briefly. Write and refine a one-page description using metaphors and similes but not using clichés. The goal here is to use descriptive language well, what some call “word painting”. **(2 pts)**

Research

Artist Research: Look at the work of at least 10 artists on the list of Installation Artists. Select one artist for more in depth study and a professional slide presentation. Use the research questions as a guide. Make a printed handout for the class. Have good images scanned / from ArtStor or from web (if they are good enough). **(5 pts)**

Intervention: a public piece

Engaging the public where they live has become an element of contemporary work. Community projects, fake advertising, socio-political confrontations, performances, constructed sets and altered architecture are just some of the manifestations of these ideas.

Content: Again, you should consider what your goal is for the audience, what your particular interests, knowledge, abilities will allow in the short time of this assignment. What are you concerned about? What would you like to explore?

Process: Develop an installation, intervention or performance that can occur in a public place in Gambier. You can make it as simple as changing people’s perception of something they see everyday or parodying a process or event. You can use costuming/ technology/ lighting/ fake advertising, structures, etc. Make the project manageable and appropriate for the time allotted. Submit the necessary permit paperwork early. **(20 pts)**

Major Site INSTALLATION

Many installations today are nomadic, that is, they can be moved from place to place. Others are site-specific, with the form and content relating specifically to the space they are built in as a temporal experience. Your major project for the semester will be housed in Horvitz Hall at Kenyon College and you should consider the context as you develop your project. You are not limited to being site specific however. You may consider a work that could be installed elsewhere in the future if you so desire, or one that only minimally refers to the site (you can never ignore the site).

Choosing and analyzing, Drawings or Maquette/

Choose/ negotiate for a space in the installation room that you will develop your major installation within. Measure, draw, diagram and build a model of the empty space. **(3 pts)**

Written proposal for final project:

Think through your plan more fully and create a written proposal. Present to the class along with more complete drawings, photos, material elements. **(5 pts)**

Building your installation:

Developing your idea:

Be Curious

Research Artist relatives/ precedents (more than internet sources)

What category does your interest fit into:

Sensory, Fantasy, Collections, Relational Aesthetics

Develop metaphors, irony, etc.

Discover the possibilities of material

How does time function in the idea

What is the relationship of the idea to the specific space?

What did you learn from the first two projects?

What are your interests and abilities? What would you like to challenge yourself with?

Consider the following:

How to merge art and life for yourself and/or for the participant.

How you use space and time on a daily basis.

What does it do to change the scale of two elements interacting?

How can you use Exaggeration (size difference, vast quantities), Irony, Appropriation?

How do your limitations guide your choices and how can you overcome them? Space/ Finance/ Location/ materials/skills/ knowledge.

Make it!

We will have a series of weekly critiques, at 5 pts each, with the final critique at 15 points.

Gaining an Audience:

- a. Writing an artist's statement (5 pts)
- b. Documenting the work in Images (still and video)
- c. Making postcards/blog/website and publicizing the work: (5pts)
- d. Hosting an exhibition

Decompression/ Deinstallation

Deinstall the work before grades are submitted (5 pts)

Intermittent skill development during class time: you will be expected to learn the basics from demonstrations over the semester and your grades for the above stages will include the skills you exhibit as well as the ideas and form they take. Here is a list of possible skills, but the exact skills will depend on what we need in the semester:

How to build a maquette. (alternative: use graphic software to design your space)

How to build a wall, of wood or sheetrock, (spackle and paint as needed).

How to do basic wiring for lighting.

How to do simple welding/grinding/mold making/sewing, etc as needed.

How to use available technologies to interact with the viewer as needed (Isadora)

Graphic Design and PR:

How to write a proposal

How to give an illustrated talk on your research (PowerPoint, LightRoom or WebPage)

How to document your work with photos and video.

How to develop PR materials, including a postcard and blog or webpage.

Choose a skill you already enjoy and develop it:

Sewing, Mold-making, Collecting, Drawing, Writing, Video, etc