

Alana Zack
9/4/17

Title: *SwimmingPool*

Artist: Leandro Erlich

1. How does the artist use the SPACE in a way that is different from an art “object”?

- An immersive architectural environment
- A sensory experience, both inside the pool and above it
- Pool is interactive, relies on the entrance of visitors for its full effect — to demonstrate illusion of people underwater
- More than just a spectacle, one must walk through the space or around it to experience the work

2. How is time used/ needed to experience the work?

- Time to explore the work from both perspectives / spaces:
below & inside
above & outside
- Time to think and resolve the “trick” (how did he do that? what’s different about this pool?) — most likely by entering the pool
- Time to playfully interact and enjoy the magic of the pool (watching the people below, watching the water, wandering beneath its shadows, watching the whole scene from afar)
- Time to wonder about its conceptual significance

3. What is the experience/role of the artist in making this work?

- Designing (and constructing?) the pool

4. What is the experience/ role of the visitor/ participant in this work? What type of audience would respond well to this piece?

- Role of visitor is critical, physically changes the landscape of the work, demonstrates its “trick,” makes it come “alive” (without visitors, we’d think it was a normal pool)
- Experience of viewer — from above, watching those figures “underwater,” questioning the “how;” from below, watching the water’s dancing shadows, feeling the sense of being underwater and not being underwater, walking and playing around in the “blue room”

5. Is this piece compelling initially (visually, aurally, conceptually) if so, what makes it draw you in? What about it is original/seductive/strange/etc?

- Visually compelling, above all
- Strangeness of the “fake pool” — one of a kind
- The framework / appearance of a familiar space (an ordinary pool) surprisingly turns out to be a highly unusual space & experience — original
- Seeing those “underwater,” a beautiful, surreal sight, seduces other visitors to enter too, to see and feel and understand

7. Is there a certain amount of conceptual depth or complexity that allows a sustaining interest on the part of the viewer?

- Illusion — What is real? What is unreal? What is fictional? How do we know? Does it matter?
- “The surprise and the understanding on the ‘trick’ produce an optimistic consideration: we construct reality ourselves, we can never accept it as given”

8. Are there elements of surprise in which something new is revealed over time? Where something develops that you didn’t expect? This can occur by imaginative ways of handling the material or revealing a twist in the idea after it is well established, etc.

- As mentioned, surprise that the ordinary-looking pool is far from an ordinary pool — surprise to see figures standing and walking in their clothes “underwater”
- As long as there are figures below in the pool, the surprise is rather immediate
- Also, simply seeing a life-size pool in the art museum context is a surprise
- Pool is extra believable because it is placed off on its own, not in a gallery space accompanied by other work — makes for an authentic pool setting

9. How is the work resolved in the way that makes sense for the project.? The various themes and metaphors should pull together into a unified whole that makes sense.

- Once again, theme of illusion — what seems normal may be strange, what seems known may be unknown
- Makes sense to use a pool — pretty universal and familiar, seductive / alluring / inviting, draws people in & gathers people around
- A pool is refreshing — “wakes us up” visually / conceptually
- “Seeing is forgetting the name of the thing one sees”
- Is it a pool? What is a pool? Does it matter?

10. What type of commitment does the artist show to the work? Skill Development, attention to detail, unified approach, etc.

— Commitment to the sensory, to the immersive experience, to the illusion
— thus also an attention to detail, to make the pool so believable and “authentic” (i.e. the pool’s stone tiling, its surrounding concrete or wooden deck, curved corners, pool lights, drains, classic ladder, quintessential pool color, real water, water’s shadows, size, depth of pool, etc).