

Installation Art: Public Art Project

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In past years, this class has used the entire Kenyon campus as our canvas for exploring concepts in public art. Students have put pieces in Pierce that relate to consumption, pieces in front of the library that relate to identity, pieces on middle path that relate to campus traditions. This year, the wall that is meant to cordon off the construction is an obvious, enormous physical and visual interruption in the material culture of the campus. This year, we will engage with the wall as symbol, as open-air gallery, or as portent of the building to come.

Subject:

Wall as symbol: How does the wall relate to other walls in the world? In your life? How is it different from these walls functionally? Is there something you can physically do to/around/on/below the wall that evokes these questions for the viewer/interactor?

Wall as open-air gallery: What would be appropriate/important to display outdoors in this culture? How does the fact that it is outside differ from exhibition indoors? Does the material and physical form of this wall alter how and what you would exhibit?

Wall as portent of the building to come: What is happening behind that wall? What are the elements of Kenyon collections that might be highlighted by an artistic form within the new building? How might visual/aural art question, amplify, celebrate existing culture of an institution? Look at the Recollections project spearheaded by Mel Chin at the City of San Jose MLK library for ideas.

Process:

Research issues related to your subject.

Collect imagery and facts.

Develop several options before settling on a proposal.

Use your writing, drawing and imaginative skills to create a proposal that might be professionally submitted to the college for considerations for funding.

Product:

Diagrammatic drawings, photos and text on a large display...perhaps printed on the largest scale printer: 44" wide by whatever long.

Alternative products may be considered.