

1)

One of the artists and his work we saw in class was of Vincent Van Gogh. I personally like two of his paintings, "Grapes, Lemons, Pears, and Apples"(1887) and "Self-Portrait"(1887). The medium for both of these works is oil painting. "Self-Portrait" is related to another work of his that we saw in class(forgot the title of the work). The key difference between these two paintings lies in the color choice for each one. The self portrait that we saw in class involved a lot more lighter colors whereas this one uses darker colors. I personally believe that Van Gogh used darker colors in "Self-Portrait" to make him pop out more. By having a darker color background the colors he used to create himself is able to pop out more which leads the eye directly to his face. Looking at the self portrait we saw in class, because of the lighter background I personally look more at the entire picture rather than only focusing on him with the dark background. The other painting "Grapes, Lemons, Pears, and Apples" I enjoy looking at mainly because of the brush strokes and how they work with the painting as a whole. Van Gogh uses the brush strokes in a way that grabs your attention and pushes it to the middle of the painting. These strokes are made in a circular pattern that get smaller as you go look at the middle. I find this painting very interesting because of that. For each of these paintings, it does not seem like anything influenced his work because I can not find any underlying meaning to these works, it feels more of a personal influence more than anything.

2)

For Modernism I decided to choose Hans Hofman and his work "The Golden Wall"(1961). The medium for this painting is oil. When I think of the word "Modern" I usually think about shapes and how they interact with each other. This plays into the idea of abstract art which became very big during the Modernism era because artists started experimenting more with different materials and techniques when creating art. I chose "The Golden Wall" because of how the shapes interacted with the painting as a whole. Because of the many shapes present on the painting, it gives the illusion as if the shapes are moving when focusing on one shape. This comes from how the brush strokes are interacting with the painting. The shapes feel like they are moving because there are not any similar brush strokes throughout the painting. This fits the Modernism description because of the abstractness of the work. Many works of art from this era took this kind of approach.

3)

The artist I chose for Postmodernism is David Shrigley and his works "Untitled(Sacked from Sainsbury's)"(1998) and "Untitled(Cars Crash Here)." The listed medium for both of these works is "Black fiber-tipped pen on cream wove paper". One of the main differences I see between postmodernism and modernism is that the modernism era did not involve much narrative with the art whereas postmodernism started to focus more on it. I chose "Untitled(sacked From Sainsbury's)" because not only is it abstract but it also incorporates a narrative. David Shrigley is able to do this by putting the narrative directly onto the paper and making that the actual art. The other work "Untitled(Cars Crash Here)" also follows this same style. Not having a lot on the paper but filling some empty space up with words that mean something. One of the words that describes this artwork is "Semiotics" which means how the meaning of a work is conveyed through signs and shapes. Putting words on paper can fall under signs seeing that more is able to be taken away from the words that are put onto the paper.

4)

The artist that I chose to write about for identity is David Hammons and his work named “Phat Free” that was made in 1995/99. The medium for this work is video. David uses this as a medium because he is able to capture the emotion and feeling that the work is about. This effect is captured by having the video play on a repeated loop. This work relates to David because this something that he sees in his everyday life. This helps to connect him to his art and to his surroundings which is part of his identity. “Phat Free” is a video that depicts poor African American life or the reality of life on the streets. In the video he also relates common items found in these people lives that are seen as symbols towards him and the current area. With these items being presented as symbols new challenges of race are brought into question. One of the main ways I think artists are able to explore their identity is by surrounding themselves in environments that have a lot of meaning to them. In this case the area that David is working in really brings meaning to his identity.

5)

One artist that we saw in class that uses text and image is Barbara Kruger. Most of her work involved monochromatic photographs with (at least to me) a very vibrant red text box with white text. With the text standing out the viewers attention is instantly grabbed. Barbara’s work usually aims to address the ideas on power, sexuality, consumerism, and identity. Another piece of art that I chose that follows text and image (i’m not sure if i’m getting it confused with typography, it seems the same to me) is Glenn Ligon and his work named “Untitled from Runaways”(1993). Two ideas that both of these artists share are identity and sexuality. The medium for this work is drawing. The key difference between these two artists and the idea of identity is how it’s presented. Barbara Kruger seems to question more and that’s how identity is made whereas Glenn Ligon tells a story from the presented image and that’s how identity is made. The time period for this work of art is very different from Barbara’s usual time period. “Untitled from Runaways” was made in 1993 but focuses more on the time period of slavery. Here posters were made to locate runaway slaves, even though identity is given through the text, Glenn says “identity is inextricable” this mainly comes from the time period in which the art was based on.

6)

One artwork that I enjoyed looking at is from Kazimir Malevich “Painterly Realism of a Football Player- Color Masses in the 4th Dimension”(1915). I enjoy art that is very simple and abstract, this artwork does exactly that. The medium for this work is oil paint on a canvas. Although this painting is very abstract, Malevich decided to put it into a new category of art called “Suprematism” which is described to have a greater focus on basic geometric forms and colors within a limited range. The composition in this painting is very interesting because it aims to explore the mathematical idea of there being a fourth dimension, which can be interpreted many ways by looking at this painting. The only iconographic meaning I can see from this are the shapes being it’s only dimension, other than that I do not see any iconographic meaning to this work.

7)

The artist Robert Adams and his two sculpture works “Slim Bronze No.2” 1971 and “Vertex” 1973, reminds of the visiting artist Ray Chi and his sculptures. When I saw these two works from Robert I immediately thought about Ray Chi because some of Ray Chi’s sculptures are very simplistic. The two main works related to Roberts works are “Untitled” 2009 and “Table for Two Figures(with Stripe)” 2010. The three sculptures “Table for Two”, “Vertex”, and “Slim Bronze” all share the same medium of sculpting with metal, whereas “Untitled” has a medium of wood. To provide context for “Table for Two Figures”, Ray Chi based this idea off of a painting made by Robert Motherwell “Two Figures”. The composition in both of Robert's works is very similar, he puts both pieces directly in the middle making that the center of attention(or at least it seems from the photo). For “Slim Bronze” the sculpture is designed to draw the viewer's eye from the top left to the bottom and then to the top right( in a U shape). This happens because of the more narrow metal being connected to a bigger chunk. For “Vertex” the eye is dragged from bottom to top mainly because of the wide base of the sculpture that gets more narrow towards the base. “Table for Two Figure” by Ray Chi is the complete opposite, not only is the actual sculpture there but the original painting that this sculpture was based off of is also there. Because of this the eye is dragged from the top left to the bottom right. “Untitled” shares similar qualities to “Vertex”, by having the sculpture in the very center and having one side of the sculpture larger than the other.

One of the major differences between these two artists is really present in “Slim Bronze No.2”. When Ray Chi creates his work, he looks at it as if he never made anything like it before, this is what he calls a beginners mindset. Because of this he is always able to create something new. With Robert and “Slim Bronze No.2”, this work seems to be a modified version of previous iterations on “Slim Bronze”. All of the works from the “Slim Bronze” line carries the same qualities. This is different from Ray Chi because instead of creating some entirely new, Robert bases this work off of previous ideas/creations.

8)

For photography I decided to choose the artist Paul Strand and his work “Porch Shadow” 1916. For the Second artist I choose Ansel Adams and his work “Clearing Winter Storm” 1937. The medium for both of these works is photography. For “Porch shadow” the main idea behind the photograph was how Pual decided to explore cubist art through photography. Similar qualities in this photograph are present in cubist art. He is able to achieve this by using shadows casted on an object to form basic geometric shapes. The type of photography used in this photograph is black and while photography. This type of photography also exists in “Clearing Winter Storm”. The main difference between these two photos is where and what objects are present in the photograph. For Ansel Adams the main focus of his photograph was to capture nature and it's beauty. While Paul Strand’s photo uses objects to approach an existing category of art in a different perspective. “Porch Shadow” has more of an abstract and minimal style and feel to it while “Clearing Winter Storm” aims to be more natural.

9)

Bruce Alonzo Goff uses mathematics in his artwork named “Gene and Nancy Bavinger House” 1950. The medium for this piece is ink on paper. The original project for this work is

based on a design for a floor plan with a paving pattern. Mathematics are present in this design because of the use of the logarithmic spiral. This relates to this work because the design follows the golden rectangle rule which is made from the logarithmic spiral. In the concept of the spiral, items are proportional to the actual curve of the spiral. This idea is clearly present in Bruce's work.

10)

While doing this assignment I found it kind of hard to actually take away some ideas from the art works because I tend to learn a lot more when the item I am looking at is in front of me. There's more of an interaction between me and the piece whereas looking at it on screen is completely different. Because of my major being computer science, I am also looking for the shortest and most efficient solution. This translates into art because it influences one of my favorite parts of art which is minimalistic art. Before taking this class I really did not appreciate art as much as I do now, mainly because I am now able to somewhat analyze the art and break it down. I am now starting to look at these museums as a place for learning instead of a place for viewing because of what I learned.