Scripts for Audio project

Imagine walking down a city street and, suddenly, you glance down at your feet and are standing in the midst of a Lego army. But then you realize, it is not real, but simply a street painting by artist Leon Keer. Keer uses chalk to create incredible optical illusions on city streets and walls. The images are drawn on a 2D surface, yet the perspective with which Keer draws the images gives the art an illusion that it is 3D.

By creating these images, Keer constructs an alternative reality in a certain location where the flat surface in our world suddenly become something entirely different. Keer achieves this effect of creating a new momentary reality through his use of perspectival anamorphosis. Perspectival anamorphosis is a technique in which the image can be seen differently through the different angles in which the looker can view it. This technique was often used by Leonardo DaVinci and is demonstrated in a drawing of his where the angle in which one holds the drawing toward their face ultimately changes what is seen in the image; when “holding the image perpendicular to one’s face, one sees an abstract relationship of marks and lines. But by holding the image at an acute angle leading away from one’s face, one can see a drawing of an eye coming in to view” (Cartwright, 160). In Keer’s images, it is not necessarily the angle in which one is looking at the image, but it is more about where the person’s body is in relation to the image. From one angle, the painting looks distorted, stretched out of shape, and as if there is no clear image being represented. If it is viewed from the correct vantage point however, the painting becomes an incredible feat of 3D art mastery, fooling the looker that he or she is viewing an image that appears to be reality. Keer’s paintings require the whole body to be in a certain relationship to the image because they can be up to one hundred square meters wide (www.leonkeer.com). It is only when the viewer sees the image from an angle except for the one in which it is intended to be seen that he or she begins to question the reality of the image, because by seeing it from any other perspective than the intended one, the illusion is lost.

Keer’s images stretch the boundary between illusion and reality. They momentarily force the looker to pause and question whether the 3D image that he or she is viewing is truly 3D or not. By doing so, Keer brings to light the question, are we really seeing what we think we see? His images challenge the minds of the viewers to experience something that is commonly understood to be nonexistent. The images “break with the convention of representing what is seen” by bringing a flat surface to life in a 3D world (Sturken, 117). These virtual images are also not confined within a frame, but are instead produced on public surfaces, rendering it even more difficult to separate the alternate reality they create from the reality in which we live our daily lives. By blurring this line between realities, the viewer has a greater likelihood of interpreting the images as part of the true reality.

1. In American society today, there is an increasing number of health concerns directly linked to diet. Not only has this generated an increase in medicines and health care costs, but it has also increased many individuals’ awareness and understanding that change first needs to come from the foods we eat. Many of the health problems that Americans have developed in recent years can be easily lessened, or even completely reversed, by making the switch to a more plant-based diet and consuming fewer animal products. In The Food Matters Cookbook, Mark Bittman provides over five hundred recipes that are simple, plant-based, and delicious in order to encourage people to live a healthier lifestyle.

For many Americans, the thought of excluding meat from their diets would be considered blasphemy, un-American, and utterly unmoral. Bittman thought so too, at first. It was a visit to his doctor, who made Bittman aware of his growing list of health concerns and recommended for him to switch to a vegan diet, that began to change his thinking. Not only did his doctor recommend for Bittman to switch to a vegan diet to improve his health, but there are also many other doctors and sources in today’s society who advocate that a plant-based diet with minimal or no animal products is the most effective for maintaining good health. A vegan diet not only reduces one’s levels of cholesterol and blood pressure, therefore reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, but also is believed to decrease the risk of many forms of cancer (Craig). Upon hearing this, it seems rather clear that a vegan diet is quite possibly the better option, however there is still a great amount of resistance in America to giving up foods like meat and cheese which have long been staples of the American diet. Although the focus of his cookbook is on consuming plants, Bittman does include information about the most “healthy” and ethical sources of meat in order to appeal to the portion of his readers who are hesitant to completely remove animal products from their diets. He comments that although he does not endorse or encourage supporting the agriculture industry, he will not deny his readers the choice to consume minimal amounts of locally and humanely raised animal products.

1. By reducing herself to live how Torvald sees her, Nora comes to realize that she is greatly limiting herself. She has lived her whole life as the controlled plaything of a man – first her father and then Torvald. That is all she had known and for most of her life and therefore accepted that it was her role in life. After reuniting with Mrs. Linde however, her attitudes and perceptions of what a woman is capable of begin to change. Mrs. Linde has been a widow for quite some time and has relied on herself to earn a living and provide for her family. Nora observes the immense freedom and power that this has brought her and discovers within herself that she too desires that independence and freedom. This is apparent through how willingly and proudly she boasts to Mrs. Linde about acquiring enough money to take her and her husband on a vacation and how she is slowly but successfully paying the loan back all on her own. It is a freedom Nora already exercises, but as long as she continues to hide it from Torvald, she remains trapped from exploring its possibilities any further.

In another display of his perception on gender roles, Torvald comments on how he wishes something of misfortune would happen to Nora so that he could step in as her savior. He has a desire to be her “knight in shining armor”, as it would give him a chance to prove his manliness and bravura. Ironically however, he makes this comment moments before he learns of Nora’s forgery. Instead of seizing this opportunity to save her from the shame of forging her father’s signature, Torvald instead resorts to selfish anger. He essentially takes the opposite course of action from that of the “knight” by wishing to distance Nora from himself and his family as much as possible so as to avoid the shame and distrust he claims she has brought upon him. This shows that he is in denial that she has the power and fortitude to do something on her own rather than to simply do as he tells her to. Regardless of the impact it will now have on her and the way society treats her, Torvald is so blinded by his need to keep his patriarchal image of a perfect home that he cannot do anything other than try to rebuild that. He does so by demeaning Nora in a number of different ways in an effort to reaffirm, to himself, his dominance and power over her.

Torvald’s dramatic reaction made Nora realize rather quickly that the life she and Torvald had been living was, in fact, a lie. Her father and her husband both found effective ways in which to brainwash her into believing that she needed their support to be content. They were successful, but content was all she was, and she wants to have more than that. She was holding herself back from living her life to its fullest potential and allowing herself to accomplish and explore all that she was capable of. At this time in society, it was very uncommon, and possibly even frowned upon, for a woman to live alone and work to support herself. This is clear in the way that Mrs. Linde was treated as a widow and in her desire to no longer be alone to fend for herself but to better her life by getting married to Krogstad to have a family to care for again. Nora has not ever known that freedom that Mrs. Linde now wishes to leave behind, and that is what she ultimately she decides that she wants. Nora wishes to feel strong and independent, and to liberate herself from the restrictive societal norms and the oppressive world she has been brought up in.