Portfolio Activity – Art Exploration

1. Why is art important? What function does it serve?

I think art is important because it’s the thing that makes us human. Fundamental to every achievement or discovery we’ve made as a species is the idea of inspiration and that is something that comes from the arts. Imagination begets art and art begets inspiration. Every great scientist, athlete, explorer has had a song playing in their ears or a composition they remember or a painting they think about. Quite literally, everything we know in life was made possible because some primate a million years ago either made a cool sound with their mouth or smeared some berries on a wall and inadvertently began the notion of art.

1. Write a brief description/reflection including the significance of the works you chose, the impression they had on you, what did you get from them, the style.

I chose the works Cubes by Teresa Burga and Earth Power I by Favianna Rodriguez.

At first glance, I thought Cubes was an interesting piece that showcased a modern blend of the bright color palettes found in a lot of Spanish and Latin American artwork and the Pop Art movement of American and Britain. But the prompt of this question including the phrase “significance of the work” made me want to read more about it because although I thought it was beautiful, I didn’t really think it was “important”. A brief synopsis of the art said the images on each cube face are connected by the fact they are all about aspects of femininity. Just pointing out that detail really helped me unpack and love this piece because she’s visually pulling apart the things that makeup femininity. This also let me connect with the artist because I actually used to do a non-artistic version of this. At a past job, I would break down complex ideas by writing the components on some plastic balls and then hold one while pacing around to focus on that individual piece and that made me really connect with the artist and how they see the world.

The piece Earth Power I has a similar color palette to Cubes but the bold paper-like shapes remind me of Latin American folklore. I’m not sure if that’s a well-based association but I feel as though I have seen that art style present in a few different cartoon adaptations of varying legends and stories. I also thought to myself “this is a woman of literal color” and noticed more details of the woman’s fashion like her headwrap and the iconic Native Latin American hoop earrings. I then read the author’s description where she described how she feels a responsibility to keep her culture alive, which made me see the work as more of portrait than simple collage. She then described a connection to nature and flora which I didn’t necessarily relate to; but it made me think about my family’s culture. My family is very Italian and I think a lot of our imagery and the way we visualize ideals is more rooted in a connection with stone and the ocean, we build great wonders and thrive from the gifts of the sea.

1. In Spanish, invent a story about one of the pieces using vocabulary and tenses already learned.

Antes todos dias, fue solo noche.

Hasta dios creado muchos cubos.

Los cubos tiene muchos color y arte.

Entonces, el arte unidos!

Los cubos grupo, un cubo abajo un cubo despues cubos es mas alto.

Entonces, cubos tienes vive!

El arte fue persona y empezo a pasear.

Durante, dios mires y estuvo mas feliz.

El arte, antes solo cubos, esta primero persona.

Los cubos aprendes a encantar y bailar.

Los cubos aprendes comio y comio mas.

Muchos nueve comal por exploracion.

Muchos nueve lugares por exploracion!

Pero los cubos estuvo triste porque solamente persona.

Dios miro y creado mas cubos por los cubos originalmente!

Los cubos orignalmente estuvo no trist, estuvo mas bien.

Los cubos tiene companeros por juegos y conversacion.

Los cubos nunca triste porque los cubos tiene familia.