**Visual Art Review Form**

Instructions

1. Your WOTA instructor will have provided you with details on the event and what they expect for proof of attendance. It would be a good idea to have this review form handy so that you know the questions you’ll be answering. Give yourself enough time to attend the gallery and view all of the works contained, before you choose the one you want to review.

2. When you’ve chosen a work to review, spend some time with it, and jot down some impressions that will help you to flesh out your responses. You will certainly want to read gallery brochures, artist statements, and any description of the work you’ve chosen.

3. Use this file to write your review: answer the questions in **the spaces provided**. While your WOTA instructor will not be counting words, at least 300-400 words total for your responses (total of all responses, not 300-400 words per question) is a good target. Please write carefully: proper use of the English language and the thoughtfulness of your responses will be part of your score on this assignment. Responses should be in the form of well-constructed paragraphs.

4. Your WOTA instructor will have provided you with instructions for turning this review in.

**Your Name**: Solomon

**Name of the Visual Art Event:** Ida Wyman: Heart + Mind

**Date you attended the event**: September 18th, 2019

**Where was the event held?** Crossman Gallery

1. **Briefly describe the event as a whole. (Was there a common theme or message? Are the works organized by chronology, theme or medium? What kinds of media were represented? How was the gallery laid out?)**

A common theme in the photographs was common man doing everyday work and play. It was showcasing the vigorous work and the relaxing play that everyday life entails for many low to middle class workers. The works were organized by theme. The themes involved were war time, everyday work, and celebrities. The left wall was full of many people working in the everyday professions, including a man painting and a man inside his spaghetti shop. The center wall largely consisted of war time images, including children playing with guns, presumably toys. And the right wall was a collective of celebrity images, including the faces of Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Cagney. They were all black and white photographs, mostly taken in the 40’s and 50’s.

**2. Choose two of the works you saw, and describe them in detail: the subject-matter, medium, composition, and other elements we’ve discussed in class. (That is, be sure to use the terminology we’ve laid out for describing visual art.) Compare the two works.**

The works of art that I will compare are “Boy with Two Pistols” and “Jimmy Cagney with Machine gun in “White Heat””. “Boy with Two Pistols” is an image of a boy holding two pistols pointing both at his nose, the subject-matter. The medium is black and white photography. The photograph has mass, it is a 2D image with apparent volume. There is also balance in the image, the boy is in the center of the image which makes the image feel well balanced. “Jimmy Cagney with Machine gun in “White Hat”” is an image of the celebrity actor holding a shotgun and walking through an environment with smoke around him. There is a balance to the image, as Jimmy is offset to the left of the image slightly and a lamp is on the right side, thus creating the balance of the image. This image has the effect of chiaroscuro, creating an illusion of 3D in a 2D image. It does this by having highly contrasting colors behind the shotgun to make it appear like it is coming out of the image into your world. These works are very similar in composition and they both use the same media. Another similarity is their use of open form, causing the viewer to look out of the image and to another piece. She accomplishes this by having both people look out of the image, thus drawing the viewer to another piece. But, their main difference is the mood that the artist is portraying to the viewer. Boy with two pistols is a piece that entails a sadder mood, thinking about how the children are living in a time of war, and the image of Jimmy has a much more suspenseful feel to it, you are wondering what is going to happen in that dark, foggy room.

**3. Who are the artists, and what are they trying to convey? (Is there a message or meaning?)**

The artist is Ida Wyman, and she is trying to convey how people are living in their everyday lives and how people are making a living through the work of their own hands. It is also showcasing how, children especially, are playing and having fun because of the hard work that their fathers are doing for them.

**4. Are these, in your opinion, effective works of art? Pretend you are writing a review for the campus newspaper or describing the exhibit to a friend. (This is partly subjective, but you should be basing your opinion on your analysis in Nos. 2 and 3 above, and our class discussions.)**

The Ida Wyman gallery is a collection of photographs that showcase documentary photography. This gallery is not very effective at addressing a problem, as the common man cannot see something wrong through these images. Instead, they convey in you a sense of national pride, seeing the people of America working hard and living the American dream and children playing and enjoying their youth while they are still living in it.

**5. Finally, what is your personal reaction to these works? Why?**

Personally, I thought that these works were somewhat interesting and maybe would be something that you might see in a museum, like the Old Milwaukee area at the Milwaukee Public Museum. But living in a world with smartphones that can take a picture just as good, if not better than these images, I am not too impressed with these works.