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3/26/2019

Exhibition Review

Professor Abrams

*Illuminated Chroma Wind Trees*



I came across a fantastic piece of art today as I was casually walking around Clemson in search of artistic inspiration for this essay. After a bit of research and close examination, I found that the name of this piece is *Illuminated chroma wind trees*. It was made with sturdy but delicate metal poles and decorated with many vibrant plastic pieces to represent the leaves of the tree. It

was created in 2017. Before 2017, this entire area was a construction zone. I still remember the empty and desolate spot in front of core my freshman year. I would walk all the way from lever hall using google maps to navigate to Harcombe and I would pass this boring area in front of Core which is now filled with these beautiful illuminated chroma wind trees.

The background of the artist is valuable to appreciating any art piece especially one as great as the illuminated chroma wind trees of core. Koryn Rolstad was the mastermind behind this art piece. Koryn is a very successful artist with a website of his own at [krstudios.com](http://krstudios.com). From this website, I learned of the various projects that Koryn has worked on which are very similar to the illuminated chroma wind trees at Clemson. Many of these projects include large poles followed by colorful plastic pieces attached to the poles. Koryn is very popular among universities as his art creates a appealing yet meaningful atmosphere wherever it is placed. Currently Koryn is working on a piece for Texas Tech University called *Illuminated Arboreal Data Codes*.

It is important to include a picture when discussing these types of outside art because the weather heavily influences the emotions and ideas expressed by the art. As you can see, the vibrant colors of the wind trees give a nice contrast to the brick buildings in the background. The path provides a very immersive experience for viewers as they can walk through the wind trees and fully appreciate their beauty. Today it was partly cloudy so I wasn't able to see the full effect of the illumination but I'm sure the art piece would look even better on a clear sunny day.

This art piece appears to be a non-objective art because without seeing the name, I was unable to identify what it was suppose to represent. There was a lot of principles of design used in this art but the most prominent ones seem to be line color and shape. The straight lines of the

poles serve as a representation of the straight trunks of trees. The vibrant colors of the plastic pieces represent the changing colors of leaves as seasons pass as well as the diversity of Clemson University. The shape of the plastic pieces are consistent with each other which serve to represent the stability and strength of core campus.

The materials were not listed in the title cards but after careful examination, I came to the conclusion that the poles were metal and the leaves were plastic because I could touch them. I assumed that the process of creating the art was ordering the required number of leaves and poles and then assembling them in front of core. How the artist actually did it is a secret of the artist and it is not my position to reveal the secrets of a mastermind.

This art can be interpreted in many ways and it is different for everyone. I believe the artist is trying to say that wind and trees always exist and never give up so I should never give up on my goals. The work made me feel inspired and motivated. The work reminded me of my childhood in China where there was no trees but a lot of wind because there were so many buildings. This helped me reflect on the wonders of wind and trees and how lucky I am that I can see trees everyday. Compared to the Andy Warhol paintings, the illuminated chroma wind trees are much more inspirational and influential. As a public art, it is seen much more often and larger so it gets my attention more. I've seen many paintings and images so when I look at the Andy Warhol paintings, it does not make an impression in my mind. The illuminated chroma wind trees responds very well in the site that its placed. It made what was once a desolate and barren space vibrant and colorful.

I believe this work of art was extremely successful and well crafted. The artist was able to leave his mark on a campus and inspire many students such as myself to never give up. Now I

have a completely changed view of illumination, chroma, wind and trees. I overhear people talking about the work all the time. While some things are negative such as “this is so stupid” or “what are these stupid things” but for the silent majority, this work was appreciated and inspirational. Other people who have different identities as me may not be as inspired because they are not thinking about art and its meaning all the time. I hope that one day my work will influence as many people as these illuminated chroma wind trees. Art is so important in creating the right atmosphere and inspiring others. Such a simple yet complicated art piece was exactly what the Core buildings needed to attract new students.

In conclusion, Koryn Rolstad is an amazing artist that created a truly inspiration masterpiece in front of Core building on Clemson Campus. Through the use of various design elements, Koryn was able to express his ideas and emotions to a wide range of different students. The placement and stability of such an amazing art piece shows the importance of art on campus and how it can affect everyone. This piece completely changed the atmosphere of Core and the surrounding buildings. There are many ways to interpret his art because beauty is in the eye of the beholder.