**Part A – Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Date Visited: 2/8/25**

**Piece 1 – Oil on Masonite.**

**First Impression –** When I first saw this piece, I was struck by its size. It was formerly a mural in the Intermountian Indian School, and it now takes up a substantial portion of wall space in the art museum. The bright colors immediately caught my attention.

**Museum Card**

The Enemy Way, Ndaa

1961

Oil on Masonite

T. Draper

**Extended Viewing –** After viewing this piece for a long time, my perception was slightly changed. The mural is large and full of detail. I particularly enjoyed looking at the details of the environment up close. I love the chimneys and buttes in the background. I was drawn in by how the background features are layered to give the impression that you are standing there. The faces of the characters in the painting are not extremely detailed, which throws off immersion when viewing the painting up close. I think the artist chose to do this because, for a mural, the macro-scale features are more important.

**Elements of Art –** The first element of design clearly emphasized in this piece is space. There is a distinct three-dimensional sense that comes from the scaling in the background. The details in the foreground, such as the people and wagon, are very clear. Further off in the background, the details are less clear. Overall, this effectively puts the viewer in the same space the artist was imagining when painting the mural.

The second element of design in this piece is color. One distinctive feature of the Colorado Plateau region is the red hues in the rock and dirt. These colors mark the Colorado Plateau as unique on the face of the entire planet. Through liberal use of these colors, the artist accurately characterizes the environment of the painting and evokes memories in those viewing it who have been to that region before.

**Principle of Design –** This mural is a good use of emphasis. The most important part in the mural is the interaction between the wagon riders and the people in the hut. There is a bifurcation of emphasis, where the wagon riders are on the left and the people in the hut on the right. The emphasis extends to colors – the most distinct and colorful features in the painting are on the left and right, highlighting the areas of emphasis. The details in the background do not detract from the overall emphasis.

**Part B – Campus Sculpture Tour, Date Visited: 02/13/2025**

**First Impression –** This piece is immediately visually striking. I saw it standing out against the building from far away. I liked the dynamic nature of the sculpture.

**Museum Card**

Four Without

1999

Wood and steel

Robert Winkler

**Extended Viewing –** I think this piece is meant to be viewed in passing. There is a dynamic aspect that seems to move as you walk past it. There is some ambiguity as to what is modeled – is it mountains, smoke, flames? When looking closely at the sculpture I feel it becomes more mundane. After a long viewing, you can see the nails and frames that hold the sculpture up. I think seeing the internal structure and construction takes away from the magic a little bit. It’s like seeing the wizard behind the curtain.

**Elements of Art –** The first element of design is line. The sculpture is made up of stacked, jagged wood logs that create strong lines. These lines draw the eye upward, giving the piece a sense of height and movement. The repetition of these lines makes the whole scene feel connected and balanced.

The second element of design is texture. The rough, uneven surfaces of the wood give the sculpture a natural feel. This fits well with the statue’s location – it is right outside the College of Natural Resources. The physical texture agrees with the visual texture.

**Principle of Design –** This sculpture a strong sense of movement with its stacked shapes in a pyramid. They draw eyes upwards to the top of the pyramid. Since there are multiple sculptures arranged together, your eyes move from one to the next, making the whole piece feel connected and alive. The sculptures seem to move when you look at them while walking by.

**Part C – Best of Show, Date Visited: 02/08/2025**

**First Impression –** The simplicity of this piece is what catches my eye immediately. There is a subtle beauty in the simplicity and age. I like how the piece draws comparison to another era.

**Museum Card**

Pegasus

1972

Gelatin silver print

Elaine Mayes

**Extended Viewing –** This is a small piece of art, hidden in a small cabinet. Nonetheless, I really like it. It has all the detail of a photograph, but still has personality. I like looking at the details in the barber shop, which contrast with the simple foreground.

**Elements of Art –** The first element of art is shape. The clearest shape in image is the large glowing circle with the Pegasus logo. The circle is a simple geometric shape that draws the eye. Other shapes, like the rectangular windows and the outlines of signs, add structure. The soft edges of the smoke introduce more organic shapes.

The second element of design in this piece is form. The car in the foreground is a clear example of form, with its solid, boxy structure giving the image a sense of depth. The building also has form, with the windows and walls creating a three-dimensional space. The contrast between the flat, glowing sign and the shadows of the car and building creates a mysterious feel.

**Principle of Design –** Emphasis in this image is created through the glowing Pegasus sign, which immediately captured my attention. Its bright, circular shape contrasts sharply with the surrounding darkness, making it the focal point of the composition. The high contrast between the illuminated sign and the shadowy car and building adds to its impact. The surrounding mist also helps draw attention to the sign, as the light diffuses through the haze, creating an eerie glow.

**Part D – Comparison**

My experience touring the Museum of Art was different compared the sculpture tour. The obvious difference is that the museum is inside. I think the controlled environment makes for more enjoyable viewing of the art. The sizes of the sculptures are much bigger, so in that sense they are more accessible. Of the two, I definitely preferred the Museum. I don’t have an appreciation for abstract art – I like art that shows things, especially nature. I don’t get a lot of the sculptures, I think they are a waste of university money. In contrast, beautiful paintings and drawings of nature are right up my alley.