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Unit 3

15/4/16

Written Review

Word Count: 532

In reflection, I believe my work has developed and matured greatly over this academic year as shown by my sketchbooks and annotation. I am making more connections with contextual sources which generates more depth and meaning. My intent for this unit was to make a video in which hand imagery is used to show the transformation that takes place over time. However, as I began taking photos of hand gestures and symbols and researching its contextual relevance, I began altering my original idea. Instead of a video, which is comprised of thousands of images, my final outcome has been reduced to a series of four that apply Circadian rhythm imagery to tell a story of the mental and physical progression that takes place over time.

I began this unit with simple line drawings and pointillism. I was inspired by the French painter Georges Seurat, whose work was revolutionary and changed the course of art history. There is a strong connection between his style of pointillism and the pixel of the modern, digital era. From there, Seurat's style reminded me of Australian Aboriginal dot paintings. The soothing patterns and colors and vast amount of symbols used to tell stories drew me in.

Along with researching traditional and historic artists and techniques, I shifted my attention to contemporary artist Bill Viola. His seamless synthesis of image and sound has resulted in his critical acclaim as a video artist. His piece *Martyrs* combines the timeless themes of the elements earth, air, fire, and rain. The link between the separate pieces, the single stand-out color and the black background, establishes the relationship each piece has with nature's disruption of tranquility and its dominance over individuals.

Influenced by Viola's work, I introduced the idea of a cycle or pattern within my own practice. I began looking at ways to defamiliarize my work while still holding on to an element of continuity that would aid in showing the progression of time. I experimented with the seasonal change evident in the changing colors of foliage. Additionally, I explored the combination of collage and color in seasonal progression. Inspired by both the traditional, historic art of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, and contemporary artists Myong Hi Kim and Christoffer Relander, I started to merge motifs from nature and use double exposure techniques to combine multiple images. As I continued

to explore and play, I decided to show evolution within the cycle of day and night, also known as Circadian rhythms. As defined by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Circadian rhythms are “physical, mental and behavioral changes that follow a roughly 24-hour cycle, responding primarily to light and darkness in an organism's environment.” This element within my work became the foundation on which I developed my idea.

My final outcome exhibits a single image comprised of four separate photographs which feature the Circadian rhythms, divided into sunrise, daytime, sunset, and night. These four images are projected onto a photograph of a paint-covered hand which is leaving streaks of paint behind. The streaks on the wall represent the past, while the hand is the present and the dripping paint is the unknown future, while the piece as a whole represents the paradox of change. Time is always progressing yet our lives seem to be on a never-ending loop, just like Christian Marclay's *The Clock*.