

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #2A

Brooklyn museum

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#Letter.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: **SiteReport2B.SwiftChristopher**.

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Thinking Frame:

In the reading, audio, and video assignments for this week a number of spaces for voices of protest are discussed. The Guerilla Girls broadcast their messages across a wide variety of media and places: posters on walls and billboards, handouts on the sidewalk, t-shirts on bodies, projections on walls, installations in abandoned buildings and art galleries, magazines, zines, websites, etc. Next Epoch produces ecological art in neglected urban wastelands. Decolonize This Place conducts protests in museums, without prior permission for use of the spaces. As a group, these interventions could be described as unsanctioned or subversive events performed in spaces that were not designed or curated specifically for protest.

In response to these kinds of activities (and perhaps in recognition--aesthetically or culturally of their importance), there have been increased efforts by community leaders and cultural institutions to create spaces for critical or dissenting voices. Landers, et al, describes strategies to create sanctioned spaces for protest in libraries, plazas, and parks. Similarly, the Brooklyn Museum now seeks to create spaces for alternative, minority, and resistant cultures and voices through curation and architectural interventions.

The question remains whether resistant practices, alternative performances, and protest are more effective when sanctioned or unsanctioned. Where is Dread Scott's Impossibility of Freedom in a Country Founded on Slavery and Genocide more effective, in the original 2014 performance on a street or represented in photographic form in a museum in 2018 as part of a curated exhibition?

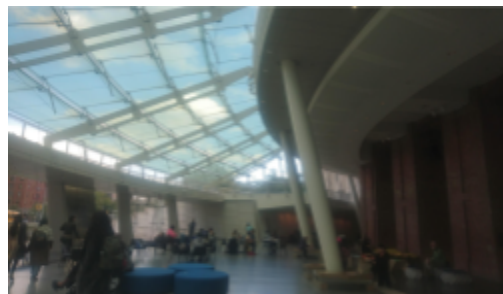
As you go through the site report collecting images and documenting your ideas, keep these tensions in mind.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert two images of Brooklyn Museum's facades. The first of a more **traditional architectural feature** for a public civic space and the second an **untraditional architectural feature**.



Traditional



Untraditional

Why did you choose these images? As you look at each, what do you expect to encounter once you enter the building? Explain.

I Chose the first picture because its architecture has that early 20 century, although to me it looked more like a library than museum because of the Greek influences on the design. Although in the pictures it you can't see it as well the whole building is on a Greek theater pit as if you are becoming part of a performance as you enter the building. I chose the second picture because I thought it was interesting how the blend the inside and outside in one place. The glass ceiling gives you the impression that you are in an open are and not on the inside of a museum. As we enter the building it felt as if the was supposed to be a big hall with a big skeleton of a dinosaurs or a whale hanging from the ceiling because of the shape of the building from the outside, but I guess it was just my preconceptions of how museums should look like.

The stated *mission* of the Brooklyn Museum is “to create inspiring encounters with art that expand the ways we see ourselves, the world and its possibilities.” Take a photo of one piece of artwork that expands the way you see yourself or the world. Give the photograph a caption and explain why it expands your vision of yourself or the world.



The goddess of fire

For me this picture of Mahuika (the goddess of fire) expand my view of the world because it depicts a strong matriarchal figure from the Polynesian societies. This caught my attention because although it's not very common to see strong women in old cultures it reminded me a little bit of a mother figure in Mexican culture where mothers always have a strong influence on society. It is interesting that regardless of what culture there's is always a strong matriarchal figure, so the fact that it is not very common to find the in history leads me to believe that the lack of strong women in history is mostly because a lack of record of them. So in a way it makes you reflect on how women have shaped history but no one really knows exactly how because of sexism prevented the preservation of this information.

The stated vision of the Brooklyn Museum is to create a place “where great art and courageous conversations are catalysts for a more connected, civic, and empathetic world.” Consider the curated areas of the museum. How is space arranged in order to create “courageous conversations”? Can you describe conversations between spaces?

The art pieces are arranged in a very interesting way, they are mostly put together by common theme. Each room has two themes that are separated by a wall. Each little space creates an atmosphere that tells a narrative and the struggles that those artists were trying to get across to their audience. For example, there was a room where you could observe various art pieces by the black panthers, in that room the atmosphere felt as if you were in one the black panthers meeting. This creates a “courageous conversation” because the black panthers are a controversial topic depending on who you ask, but by creating this space you can debate the ideals of this group and how they would affect society

Insert an image of designed space (not art objects themselves) that suggest “connection.” How is the concept of “connection” articulated in the way art is arranged in space? (Consider the walls, walkways, display boards, pedestals, rooms, etc.)



The triangular table

I think the clearest example of connection displayed in the museum is this triangular room with a triangular table in the middle. The table had several art pieces that represented different women's issues. The table represented how all this issue are part of the same thing, women's issues. This triangle gives you the impression that all these issues are not an isolated thing and that there is solidarity for everyone fighting to correct these issues.

Brooklyn Museum declares that “since we see ourselves as a conduit for open sharing and learning, we accept the controversies that may accompany courageous conversations.” Consider the way art objects are arranged in space for the *Half the Picture* exhibition in relation to viewers. How would you describe the arrangement of objects for viewers. Did the arrangements accept controversies? Did they encourage courageous conversations? If so, how? If not, why?

I believe that the museum does keep true to their word when they say they accept controversy since there is several pieces that could be considered shocking to some people that are displayed very boldly. There were also sections with delicate topics such as domestic violence against women and other similar topic. This does encourage courageous conversations since it makes you think about these issues and how it affect its victims.

SITE REPORT #2B

Based on your observations at the Brooklyn Museum, **develop a complex research question** about the relationship between 1 piece of art that you viewed and a social or political issue.

Remember, your research question should be specific and researchable.

Research Question:

Find 2 sources. *For this report, one of your sources **MUST** be an academic journal article. Your other source can be a news article, internet source, or book.

1 source should have to do with the **artwork, artist, artistic style, or some element of the work** you chose. For example, if you were interested in learning more about realistic photography depicting women engaged in domestic activities, you might search for sources about “domestic imagery AND photography” or “realistic photography” rather than sources about the specific artist.

1 source should be about the **social / political issue** that is articulated in your research question. This source may or may not have to do with art.

Write an MLA citation for each source:

Source 1

Source 2

Describe the process you used to find these sources including any **keywords** and the **specific search engine or tool** you used to search.

In a sentence or 2, describe the main point of each source. Then consider: how do these sources address all or part of your research question?

Source 1

Source 2

Describe ways the two sources you chose are similar and different. Would it be difficult to integrate these two sources into a single writing assignment? Why or why not?

What other sources or further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for that information?