

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**.



Image 1 Caption: Ancient Roman traditional architecture



Image 2 Caption: Modern Architecture with a glass roof.

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

The reason I chose these images are, for Image 1 it shows you the traditional style of architecture. This architecture style could be seen all over New York City on buildings

that are public spaces and are owned by the NYC government and NYS governments. It has large columns from the floor to the to the ceiling. This image also shows you the detailed façade of the building with statues and other detailed lines on the face of the building and also the long detailed lines that are of the length of the columns. Everything about this architecture is about the details it shows. The details also carry some history from the Ancient Roman times and the romans took this and developed it from the Greek.

The reason I chose image 2 is because this is my favourite type of architecture style. The modern architecture shows a more welcoming view to the museum. By look at the entrance to the museum it attracts more people to come inside. And mainly it attracts the younger demographic. When young people see the more traditional style they would automatically be turned off by the sight of the building and this modern style of architecture is a lot more exciting. This style also gives off an impression that it is a more sustainable building by having a lot of glass as the walls.

As I entered the building I expected that the building would be more of a traditional feel, because of the outside façade. But when we got into the museum and went upstairs the building was more of a modern feel inside of it.

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.



Image 3 caption: "The Flag is bleeding"

In image 3 it expands my vision of myself in this world and country because the artist faith ringgold captured what it is like to be black in society. It shows you the violence that is happening in the country and that not only is an individual is bleeding who has been in a violent situation but also the entire country is bleeding as a result of the series of violence taken place. Back to being black in America it shows you that the black person in the painting is holding a knife, and in the word posting next to painting it stated that she is showing the "oppression faced by black people". This painting also showed that both whites and blacks could also come together and unite, and this is something I strongly agree with. There is never no need for racism and violence because we are all Americans and as a nation we are stronger together and weak when divided.

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?

As I went into the exhibition I noticed that art pieces are all categorised and in each section the art work related to each other. This makes conversation very easy to come by because the art are

similar and you can make comparisons with each individual art pieces in that section. One of the rooms in the exhibit that I found interesting had paints of continental Africa on them. They were done by server different artistes and they showed the place where the ancestors of black people came from.

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.)



Image 4 caption: A city block with murals of famous African American

In this image we have city block with a lot murals of famous African Americans. And the art piece look 3D from a distance and it basically demanded your eyes presence onto it. Any neighbourhood in Brooklyn and the rest of New York you would see something similar to this. It has advertisements on the walls of businesses like a tv and radio repair shop by Johnny rays. Any neighbourhood you go into you will definitely find something very similar to this art piece. Especially in the 1970s and 80s you would see this. Some of the murals on this art pieces is of Malcom X and Mohammed Ali very influential people in the black community. It also has pictures of people playing jazz instruments showcasing the history of African Americans and jazz music.

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 think that the exhibition accepted controversy because in one of the show case rooms it had pictures of women naked and half naked. It makes you wonder why and by doing that it encourages people to engage in conversation to discuss what they are looking at . The arrangement of the objects when from room to room and in an order of individual black people to nation of oppressed black people then to the room full with Africa paintings, and the room next to the paintings of Africa had the art piece with many successful and influential blacks in it. This is the same art piece I spoke about earlier in my report.s