

## Exhibition Review

Papers are due: **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

***You must submit your paper on Blackboard (it will be checked against the internet by SafeAssign). Include a photograph of the entrance stub/receipt to your paper or take a picture of yourself holding a museum or exhibition brochure at the museum.***

Your paper should be 4-5 double-spaced pages (4 pages does not mean a 3-page paper plus cover), 1" margins, 12-point type (Please use Arial, Helvetica or Times).

Write a review of the exhibition based on your interpretation and analysis. A key element of this review will be to determine the goal of the curators in putting the exhibition together and then to evaluate the extent to which the curators were successful in achieving this goal. This means you must examine the exhibition carefully. Don't simply walk through the exhibition. In order to critique the show, you should devote enough time to read all the wall texts, to view each work of art carefully, and become conscious of how you and other visitors interact with the works of art and exhibition space. The review should analyze the organization, design, themes, and issues raised in the show. How is the theme of the exhibition conveyed through the objects, design, and subsidiary text (i.e., the wall labels)?

### **BEFORE YOU START, please do the following:**

- 1) review what a curator is and does, and
- 2) locate the correct exhibition that you wish to review  
(ask a museum guard for help if you cannot find the exhibit)

Choose only **one** of the following exhibitions to review. At MoMA there are three photography-related exhibitions on view, please only choose one exhibit for your paper. Below is a list of museums/galleries located around NYC. I have provided the websites for you to gather basic information such as opening times and directions, but please feel free to ask me any questions.

- Brooklyn Museum of Art:  
***Garry Winogrand: Color (now-Dec 8)***

or

- JR: Chronicles (now-May 3)***

\*closed Mon and Tues, suggested \$10 student admission (which means you can pay less than the suggested admission fee) <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org>

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- Museum of Modern Art (MoMA):  
The following exhibitions are at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan:  
***member: Pope L., 1978-2001 (Oct 21, 2019-Feb 1, 2020) \*\*this exhibition***

*includes other media\*\**

or

**Surrounds: 11 Installations** (Oct 21, 2019-Jan 4, 2020) *\*\*this exhibition includes other media\*\**

The following exhibition is at MoMA PS 1 in Long Island City:

**Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991–2011** (Nov 3-Mar 2, 2020)

\*open every day, **FREE with CUNY ID**, [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)

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- Metropolitan Museum of Art: THIS EXHIBIT IS AT THE MET BREUER ON MADISON AVE AND 75<sup>TH</sup> STREET

**Vija Celmins (now–Jan 12)**

\*closed Mon, pay-what-you-wish with a NYC ID [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

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- Museum of the City of New York:

**The Voice of the Village: Fred W. McDarrah Photographs** (now–Dec 1)

\*open everyday, **FREE with CUNY ID**, <http://www.mcnyc.org>

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- Brooklyn Historical Society: **\*\*\*THIS EXHIBIT IS THE CLOSEST TO CITY TECH\*\*\***

DUMBO Location at 55 Water Street

**Waterfront (now-2020)** *\*\*this exhibition includes other media\*\**

\*closed Mon, **FREE with CUNY ID**, <http://brooklynhistory.org/>

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- Aperture Gallery (547 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan):

**The New Black Vanguard: Photography Between Art and Fashion** (Oct 24, 2019-Jan 18, 2020)

•closed Sun, Mon, Tues, Weds, **admission is FREE**

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- Bronx Museum of Art:

**Henry Chalfant: Art vs. Transit, 1977-1987** (now–Mar 8, 2020)

or

**The Life and Times of Alvin Baltrop** (now–Feb 9, 2020)

•closed Mon and Tues, **admission is FREE**

**Please note: you must make sure that you select one of the above exhibitions to review. DO NOT attempt to review the entire museum but one of the exhibitions listed above. Failure to follow the paper instructions means the highest possible grade is a D.**

Your review should give the reader an overall impression of the exhibition and your responses to it. Please do not be afraid to take a critical stand but be sure to justify your opinions. Do not simply express an opinion, you must explain why. Most importantly, I

am interested in *your* personal review of the show. If you quote other reviews, be sure to cite your sources, otherwise you are plagiarizing someone else's work.

**Address the following questions in your paper:**

- What were the curator's objectives for the show? (The curator is the person responsible for selecting works for display and organizing the exhibition).
- Was the organization of the exhibition logical?
- Were materials in the exhibition presented in an appealing fashion? How did the design shape the visitor's experience of the exhibition?
- What was emphasized, and how? and what impact does that have on the visitor?
- How effective were the displays (i.e., were there tables in the middle of the rooms)? Did they add or detract from the visitor's viewing of the art?
- What do you think could be improved or changed?
- What images affected you and how did the presentation of the photographs in the exhibition affect your response to it?
- Were you impressed or disappointed?
- Lastly, you must address how this exhibition contributes to your knowledge of the history of photography

Please do not simply summarize what you saw. You must write a review that presents a **critical analysis** of the exhibition. **Start with a thesis** about how you plan to interpret the exhibition then provide a short introductory paragraph that outlines the show giving your reader enough enticing information to continue reading your review. Be selective! Please do not feel compelled to address everything that was included in the exhibition. Use analysis of specific photographic works to support your argument and assertions. This is not a research paper, therefore, do not include more than a paragraph on the biography of individual artists (it will lower your grade).

Your grade is based on how thorough and how well your review is written and supported. Please look online under Class Downloads on the class website for the "Grading Rubric for Papers." Your paper will be evaluated for content, organization, style, and grammar.

**PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM AND WILL RESULT UNCONDITIONALLY IN A FAILING GRADE.**

Blackboard's SafeAssign checks your paper against a Google-like search engine and other student papers on file. You will receive 0 points for your paper if the matching rate exceeds 35%. Wait several minutes after you submit your paper to see your SafeAssign report. If the matching rate is too high, I strongly recommend that you re-write your paper with your own words to get it below the 35% threshold because receiving a 0 will reflect badly on your final grade.