

Reading Response # 2

Compart & Contrast

Edensor & Lynch

Lynch points out “we much consider not just the city as a thing in itself, but the city being perceived by its inhabitants.” Landmarks such as the city skyline, Macy’s on 34th street, and the Empire State Building would be classified as Legible images that many New Yorkers and tourist alike would consider the staples of NYC. These familiar structures help us find our way through such a chaotic space, full of busy people who don’t have time to give proper directions. These Landmarks serve as reference points in our daily commute to help us navigate to our daily destinations. Although these Landmarks are engrained in our daily commute, the observer also has their personal purpose for these structures. A purpose such as when to make a left turn, which side of the train to sit on when the sun is going to set in order to prevent the uncomfortable feeling of the suns glare in their face, which way to go to avoid all the street lights. An image is linked between an observers’ emotions and their general perception of the space. As the observer goes through life, circumstances change and their experience of their Landmarks will also be affected.

Tim Edensor piece “Performing Tourism, staging tourism” explores the rituals of tourism. Edensor exclaims that tourist practices differ based on environment. For example, Edensor states “These settings are distinguished by boundedness, whether physical or symbolic, and are often organized – or stage-managed—to provide and sustain common-sense understandings about what activities should take place. The setting sets the mode as to what the tourist can and cannot do. For example, going to the MET museum, taking photos with flash is prohibited along with loud noise and food. The tourists are then forced to behave quietly, walk softly, and to observe the museums policy. This is a great contrast to visiting the Bronx zoo, where tourists are able to be loud, take pictures with flash and to eat throughout the park.

Edensor discusses how a space can create the performance of tourism and that all tourism isn’t the same. Tourism is directly dependent of the boundaries that are put into place. Lynch explains that space is linked to the emotions and the perception of the observer and that it’s never really noticed until it has been removed or changed. While Lynch links the ties to the environment, Edensor links that a spaces boundaries create the experience.