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### **The Beauty of Destruction**



Niagara Falls by Valerie Hegarty in 2007 is the piece I choose for my paper. It is a piece that is created in an unusual way that it seems like it is broken down or melted in some way but also properly contains the artwork itself. Valerie Hegarty is an American contemporary painter who creates sculptures and paintings to reflect the rotten state of American society, every piece

of her works is displayed in a distorted way that she created the piece and breaking the art down by her own hand, destroying an art piece makes them a completed piece.

The moment when you ask a person “what is art” one would immediately describe it as a creation of something, however, Hegarty is approaching it in a brutal way, by creating and “destroying” the piece, just like Niagara Falls and every other piece she had created. The artwork itself is one of the famous historical places in the U.S, Niagara Falls. It is portrayed remarkably and destroyed brutally by herself; it is almost like she is trying to tell the audience the piece Niagara Falls was destroyed by the waterfall itself. The work itself reflects the current society’s situation where people are destroying themselves in one or another way. I could imagine that Hegarty had more fun butchering the art piece down rather than creating the painting. Said by herself “I had taken paintings and sculptures from Art History and broken them down so that they looked as if they’d been through a natural disaster – so that there was even more historical information dumped on the historical painting,”

The linguistic language used in piece is the way Niagara Falls is destroyed, if you can think of how a waterfall can tear out something it would be just like Niagara Falls. The way the piece is torned and twisted is like the work done by nature which is what Hegarty is trying to do, to imitate nature’s destruction and apparently she did a remarkable job.

<https://www.designboom.com/art/valerie-hegarty/>

<https://www.demilked.com/decaying-disintegrating-sculpture-installation-valerie-hegarty/>