

## ARTH 1100 History and Appreciation of Photography

### Paper 2

#### Exhibition Review

***You must submit your paper on Blackboard (it will be checked against the internet by SafeAssign).***

Your paper should be 3- 4 double-spaced pages (3 pages does not mean a 2-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. 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)? Try 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.

***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** exhibition from the list on Open Lab for your review. I will provided the websites for you to gather basic information such as opening times and directions, but please feel free to ask me any questions.*

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).
- What was the intention of the artist: the motivation for their work?
- What were the themes of the work, and how were these themes expressed?
- Did the organization of the exhibition support the curator's, and or, artist's objectives?
- How did the design of the exhibition space and materials 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, frames, plinths, lights)? 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: draw from themes and examples discussed in the lectures.

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.

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.

*Please note: you must make sure that you select one of the listed exhibitions to review. Unless you have made previous arrangements to review another exhibition, the highest possible grade for failing to follow the paper instructions is a D.*

### **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.