Iyat Abdelfattah

Arth3311

HW#1

In History of Graphic Design, we learned about how different cultures and people developed there writing techniques and their ways of communicating. We also looked at some pictographs and ancient art works from rock carvings to writing on clay. The first writing system came about in the Mesopotamia era. At that time, the Sumerians who lived along the Tigris and Euphrates river wanted away to try and record their daily sales and crop intake and how many animals each farmer had and birth and death intake throughout the years. Also wanted to keep record what they sacrifice to the gods. So, they developed a type of writing system using a stylus and clay. They would get this type of plants by the river and shape it in to a way to write on the clay. The clay would harden in the sun and it would be kept for records. Thus, the birth of cuneiform was developed which is a pictograph form of writing. Now that they developed a way of writing they needed people to do the documenting. So, they created a job description called scribes. Scribes went to school to learn the language and how to write on the clay using the stylus. Most stylus were men rarely women were educated. Scribes were trained for years to learn to interpret and write the text. One of the achievements the Sumerians did was there laws which was the code of Hammurabi. This was the law of the land which were enforced since they had written document of them.

Another way of writing was hieroglyphics. This was during ancient Egypt times. Hieroglyphics are sacred carvings done on stone. They told stories and showed daily lifestyle. The ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife that you can eventually return to your body. They would mummify their bodies but leave the heart and place their organs in scared jars. The most sacred of contributions to their laws was Narmers palette. Which is the book of the dead. It was written around 150 B.C it leads the secret behind the afterlife. Which states what monsters you must face and defeat and if you succeed you are met with love ones on a field in peace and happiness. The first chapter of the Art history of Graphic design is all about writing systems and how they shaped our world today. How designers today would know anything without the creators of language and communication. Many companies used pictographs in their work and brand. Such as IBM using and eye and an insect which was a bee and the M was designed in lines. Another great example is a personal favorite which was the I love NY the love was replaced with a heart. It is a representation of NYC during a bad stage in New York history. It brought some light back to NY in positive ways.