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Essay 2

The first photo is called “Sculpture and the Hula Hoop.” This photo was taken in the afternoon. I was looking through the gate and there is a field of metal sculpture and graffiti on the buildings around it. The gate is blurry because the garden is in focus to make a reverse depth of field. This garden was in between two buildings near my apartment on the lower east side. I’ve captured one of the sculpture that had a hula hoop on it and it caught my eye. The sculpture was yellow and had bits of brown on it because it was rusting. It was there for a very long time just like the other ones. It was made out of different metals parts used to make a figure of a man or a teenage boy. The rusted chain on top of it. The chains are the hair of the sculpture and the hair was short like it was up to its chin. Small to medium size pipes to make the arms and legs and smaller pipes to make the fingers. A round metal ball that was made from different sized sheet metals to make the head with smaller sheet metals that is shaped as lips. A long thick rectangular metal with diamond patterns on it to make the body of the figure. Different sized wheels were made to look like breast and eyes for the sculpture. There’s an old hula hoop with the blue, orange, and green tub around the hula hoops and the orange tubs were losing their color so it’s more of a light brown. The hoop is place in the middle of the arm. There are large springs around the legs to add on more designs. The sculpture looks like it’s dancing or showing off its hoop. The sculpture is placed in a garden, but has lots of trees without any leaves on it. It was still cold and the leaves haven’t grown yet. In the garden, there are old baskets, cans, garbage cans, chairs, the boxed television that was used years ago, and lots of other furniture all over the garden.

The second photo is called “Sitting Down Sculpture,” it’s another metal sculpture in the same garden as the first photo. It was also taken in the afternoon and in the same area. The gate is blurred out so it’s a reverse depth the field. The sculpture had different shaped metal. Long medium sized pipes to make the arms and the legs and smaller pipes to make the fingers. The sculpture is holding a red ball and a paintbrush with dry blue paint in between its fingers. On the arm, there's also a small bird house around the wrist. The body is made of different sized metal circles. The head is made of thin sheets of metal to form the head and there is a small opening to make the mouth. The sculpture has nice sunglasses on top of it and spiral earrings. Trees without any leaves are all around. In the garden, there are different items like flowers in pots, a table with more flower pots, a trash can, and rocks. There are flower pots everywhere and chairs. The sculpture looks like it’s showing off it’s things to other people.

The first and second photo are the same, but different in their own way. The sculptures are made with the same material and they’re in the same area, but the objects around them are different like the first photo has less objects in it and it was more spread out. The position of the two sculpture are different. Those sculptures have been there for a very long time and the sculptures have been rusting and wearing down and some of the objects around them. Very old things are placed in the area to make it look like the sculptures live there. In “Research and Memory,” by Jose Parla, he says “[m]y thought and impulse behind the gesture was as primitive as that of caveman marking and drawing in their dwellings to assert their existence in a place and time.” It’s just like the person who made the sculpture had some sort of meaning behind them and that person wanted to be known and the person wanted it to last. But not a lot people look at these sculpture because they lose value, they’ve been in the area for so long and no one bothers to pay attention to it. John Berger says that “no work of art can survive and not become a valuable property” and he also states that “[a]ll works of fine art, whatever their content, whenever the sensibility of an individual spectator, must now be reckoned as no more than props for the confidence of the world spirit of conservatism.” Art doesn’t become valuable anymore because it can be replicated and be seen over and over again and no one has any interest in it. The thing that was made once had value, but now it’s just items or props.

Work Cited

Berger, John. “Understanding a Photograph.” *Classic Essay on Photography.* Ed. Alan   Trachtenberg. New Haven: Leete’s Island Books, 1980. 291.

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