Advanced Art Electives

Assignment # 1 & 2  April 6-April 10

CREATIVE CONSTRAINTS:
ART RESEARCH & EXPLORATION

After this lesson you will be able to:
• Identify ways artists work within limits and constraints to create artworks

Suggested Materials:
• Sketchbook, paper, pencil, or any other material you like to use for sketching and taking notes

THINK
What do you know already? Answer the following questions and prompts to begin exploring ideas.
• What types of art making are you most interested in creating?
• How has not working in art class influenced or challenged the way you normally create art?
• Describe a time in your life when you have been challenged in creating an artwork and the creative solution you found to accomplish your goal.

LEARN
How do artists find opportunities within limitations? Study works by the following artists and answer these reflection questions:
• What variables have placed limits in the featured artists’ works? How are those limits also a source of inspiration?
• Which two artists have common themes or ideas within their works? Use evidence from the images and descriptions of the artwork to explain your answer.
• Which artist’s work most relates to a constraint you are experiencing right now or one you would like to focus on in your own artwork?

ARTWORK:

Artist: Nancy Holt
Title: Sun Tunnels
Media: Concrete pipes with holes in the shape of constellations
Date: 1976
Description: Holt collaborated with engineers, astronomers, pipe manufacturers, and many other professionals to complete this environmental artwork. Each tunnel aligns perfectly with the sunrise and sunset of the winter and summer solstices, when the sun appears centered within the tunnels. During the day, sunlight streams through the holes and projects the constellations inside the tunnels, connecting earth and sky.
ARTWORK:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ARTIST</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>MEDIA</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nari Ward</td>
<td>We Shall Overcome</td>
<td>Shoelaces</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Ward has produced his works by accumulating humble materials and repurposing them in surprising ways. His approach evokes a variety of folk traditions and creative acts of recycling from Jamaica, where he was born, as well as the material textures of Harlem, where he has lived and worked for the past twenty-five years. Ward directly addresses complex political and social realities that resonate on both a local and a national level like racism, power, migration, and national identity. “I’m drawn to crisis,” says Ward. “That’s when people mobilize. And that momentum is what intrigues me.”</td>
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<td>Mark Powell</td>
<td>Untitled</td>
<td>Pen drawings on old newspapers</td>
<td>2010-present</td>
<td>“After we were evicted from our studio in London, at which point I was painting large scale paintings, I had to work smaller. I had found an envelope that was sent from the trenches in World War I. With the likelihood that the soldier never returned, I decided to draw what he may have looked like as an old man. In an increasingly digital age, I want to save as much as I can in the way of maps (and other printed material) and ‘upcycle’ them. The pairing of elderly people and antique documents is a natural one. Both have an untold history.”</td>
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TRY

Complete the following activities to explore media and techniques

- Brainstorm how the ideas behind the artworks you have studied could inspire your own creating even if it’s not using the same materials. List, photograph, or sketch your ideas in response to the following questions:
  - How could Nancy Holt’s sculptures be an inspiration for your own work?
  - What types of recyclable materials in your house have an untold history that could be presented in a new way like the newspaper pages used in Mark Powell’s drawings?
  - Like Nari Ward, what message would you want to convey to the world right now and what materials would you use to create it?

SHOW

Present the ideas you have completed in the previous artist exploration activities by choosing one of these methods:

- A combination of sketches and writing in your journal
- A PowerPoint of images and captions
- A recorded video of your discoveries and responses