

Research: Sculpture to Scale

Intro

One of the most effective ways for emerging artists to develop their understanding of the art world and thereby create more compelling work themselves, is to research the work of significant contemporary artists – ideally by seeing the work in person. This assignment is designed to help you sharpen those research skills.

Research and Sources

For this project, you will focus on a particular sculptural exhibit or piece of work from the Chicago trip, or participate in the performance/ installation *Yardage* at ArtPrize, and present a 5 minute presentation on it.

For Chicago-based research, you will need to find at least one additional source for this paper:

- a book or exhibit catalog
- a journal from an industry-recognized publication
- newspaper article from an industry-recognized publication

These include Art Journal, Artforum, Art in America, BOMB, The New Art Examiner, other art journals, The Village Voice, New York Magazine, The New Yorker, The Brooklyn Rail, and The New York Times and other major daily newspapers.

Our library's search engines can help you find books on your subjects. Its databases can help you find journal articles.

On Wikipedia and Googling

Web searches can be important when researching contemporary artists, because their careers are sometimes fresh enough that there has not yet been extensive scholarship on them. However, web searches alone are not the most powerful tools available to you, and the algorithms that generate results rely on the traffic and connectivity of websites rather than the value of their content. Many artists have their own websites, which can offer a good introduction to the artist's work, but should generally be considered tools of self-promotion. Check these sites for links to articles, interviews and artist statements that may be of use to you.

Wikipedia is not currently recognized as an acceptable source for citation. However, it does have the possibility of giving a general overview on a subject, and this may help you determine the direction of your research and the kinds of questions you want to engage. The bibliography in a Wikipedia page can be useful in directing you to acceptable sources of information.

Presentation

Your presentation should focus on a particular sculptural piece, a comparison between two sculptural pieces, or a sculpture-based exhibit that you write about focusing tightly on a particular sculpture.

The presentation should include:

- A formal analysis of the work – media, scale, placement/ context, aesthetic references, shape, color, finish, etc. [1/4 of the presentation]
- A conceptual analysis of the work: what is the

artist's work about, overall theme, logic, or meaning. [1/4 of the presentation]
 - How the piece fits into the oeuvre of the artist who made the work. [1/4 of the presentation]
 - Your assessment of the work. The presentation should have a thesis that is specific, unique and challenging, and is supported by your description. Address how well the work conveys its meaning and the extent to which the meaning is relevant - in the world generally or in the art world specifically. [1/4 of the presentation]

Presentation Tips

- do not speak in contractions or vernacular language
- you may narrate your presentation in the first person but do maintain a formal tone
- Avoid crass generalizations, or phrasing that suggests crass generalization: "Man throughout time..." or "In this day and age..."

Project Details

- 5 minute presentation
- title for your presentation: be creative and descriptive
- bibliographical information that includes reproducing pull quotes and cites sources integrated throughout the presentation
- use MLA citation; for examples, see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/>
- minimum 5 images of relevant work discussed in your presentation
- caption of image which includes: artist name, title, medium, date of construction, dimensions. For some pieces, including work that is site-specific, performative, interactive, or otherwise non-traditional, you may want to include further information.

Mechanics including duration, pull quotes, proper citation	____/10
Images Captioned and cited images of good resolution	____/10
Word Choice Speaking is clear, precise, expressive without verbosity	____/20
Organization Presentation is formatted logically and strategically	____/20
Description The work is clearly and compellingly described, including formal attributes and connotative and denotative meanings	____/20
Thesis Compelling, daring, clearly articulated	____/20
Total	____/100

Full narrative drafts with bibliography and slideshow due: Monday, October 17

Presentations: Monday, November 7th