

Project #1 – *Through Our Eyes*

Our first formal project will send us to visit the Godwin Ternbach Museum (GTM) which is located in Klapper Hall room 405. The museum can be entered from the lobby on the 4th floor of Klapper Hall. Please note there are two lobbies in Klapper Hall, on the first and fourth floors.

You will view the exhibit *Arte Cubano* which displays the work of several Cuban artists spanning several generations. The museum describes the exhibition this way:

“Arte Cubano highlights a universally agreed-upon characteristic of the island’s art: an incredible diversity. Cuban art is so rich in large part because of its diverse cultural blend of African, European, and Latin/Caribbean influences. This timely exhibition reflects more than twenty-five Cuban artists’ ruminations on the quotidian, social, and political realities of the island and the contemporary world.”

When we, as a viewer, look at artwork one of our main concerns is to discover how the work connects to us. How does the work remind us of ourselves? How do we relate to the work? What about the work makes me ask questions about myself or the world around me? It is this process that allows an artwork to have meaning for us and to enrich our lives.

It may seem intimidating to look at artwork in this way. To get started you can ask yourself these questions. What is this a picture/painting/sculpture/video of? What do I think the artist is trying to communicate? Does the work communicate this to me? What techniques did the artist use and did these enhance the power of the imagery? What emotional or intellectual reactions did I have to the work?

Assignment:

Visit the exhibition and find 3 works that you connect with and photograph these pieces with your cellphone. Create 3 additional images taken from your own life that compare, contrast, or connect to the 3 images you captured in the exhibition. In class we will create an original composition by combining the 6 images together in one image that communicates those comparison, contrasts, or connections.

Skills:

We will use Adobe Photoshop to edit our images for correct size, density, and contrast. We will learn and employ the digital tools for combining images into a composite image. We will prep the images for large format printing and submit those files to the Digital Imaging Lab for print. We will examine the “conceptual” and “formal” qualities of our images so that we create artwork that successfully communicates our ideas with formal intent.

Do not edit your images in-phone. Do not apply any type of filter (we will do that later). Do not crop your images. Do not lower the resolution of your images. Make sure your images can be downloaded.