

Gallery/Museum Report

Instructor: Mark Daybell

General Guidelines

- Analyze **one** painting/photograph/video/sculpture/installation by an individual artist
- Write a formal paper following the rules of grammar
- 700-800 words, doubled-spaced, computer generated, spell checked, at a legible font size
- Gallery/Museum must be off campus
- Please attach evidence of your visit - this can come in the form of a ticket, a parking receipt, gallery pricelist or some other irrefutable documentation

Historical Context – No more than 100 words

- Please include the name of the gallery/museum, exhibition, artist and date of artwork
- If appropriate, place the artist and/or artwork into a particular era or movement

Visual Description – No more than 100 words

- Describe how the work looks visually. Description should allow the reader to form a complete visual representation of the artwork. For example:
 - a. What medium and techniques are used to create the work
 - b. What is the exact subject matter
 - c. What did the artist chose to include or exclude from the work
 - d. Describe the composition
 - e. How is the work presented
 - f. How large is it

Analysis – No less than 600 words

Select three ideas you believe the artwork is trying to convey. Write a paragraph on each idea. Begin each paragraph defining your interpretation. Use the rest of the paragraph to argue why your interpretation is well-founded. Remember to keep on track; do not stray too far from the artwork by interjecting personal narrative.

Things to consider:

- Look at process, subject matter, composition and presentation. How do they work together?
- Consider the intent of the artist. Was he/she successful? If not, why not.
- Contradictory interpretations are acceptable and maybe even desirable
- Please write this report based on your own observations, not those of a docent, gallery wall plaque or brochure

Note

- Little research is required; it's only necessary to place the artist into his/her historical context
- This is not a biography of the artist so keep biographic information to a minimum
- If an idea is not general knowledge and you did not think it up yourself then it must be footnoted
- If you need assistance writing this paper, please visit COC's TLC lab
- For student examples, please visit www.daybell.com/galleryreport.php

Where to Visit, What to Bring

Los Angeles is home to many internationally recognized museums, such as: Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), The Getty Center, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Museum of Contemporary Art (The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA), Norton Simon Museum of Art and the UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center. Any of these museums would satisfy the requirements. Any museum not listed above requires my prior approval.

Within the LA basin, there are a number of well-respected commercial art galleries. One hot spot is Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. Here, you can visit numerous galleries in one location. For a complete listing of galleries, museums, hours, admission costs, phone numbers and addresses, see the Calendar section of the LA Times, the Museum and Art Galleries section of the LA Weekly or try www.artscenecal.com.

Note: most museums cost money but give students with college IDs a discount. Museums often have free days, so be sure to check the museum's website before going. Galleries are generally free. Either way, expect to pay for parking.

Due: See syllabus for due date