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Final Assignment Curatorial Exhibition Reflection

The start to finish of this project considerably changed my view of art inside a museum and how a person is meant to interact with the artwork. For my research, I chose to make it about Elizabeth Catlett since I was interested in analyzing her artwork better and learning about the theme that her artwork was meant to represent and the type of curatorial one could create. For my proposition for a curatorial, I will admit that I went with open topics since I was not sure about the type of artwork the rest of my classmates would choose. Talking about topics shared by most of the artwork, such as the case for starting movements, connecting emotionally with the viewer to inspire or as a form to represent a community. In all, it was to share an ideal that the artist strongly believes was recreated inside an artwork.

When to building the curatorial, we tried to share the task, and everyone was assigned. I was given half of question number 4, which was to assemble the curatorial artwork. Some mentioned already the artwork that my group wanted to include in the curatoria by name, such as the grandmother's Prayer; others mentioned artists like Elizabeth Catlett and the Fierce Pussy. With that information, I chose the artwork mentioned and then looked at the artists' artwork that

seemed to fit with my group's theme. The theme that my group chose was the portrait of inequality and order by the ideal that they wanted to convey to the public. This idea would be later changed by my group, who would group the artwork of one artist into a single section each. From there, a different group member would explain why we chose those artworks. Sadly, the time given to use was not that much since it was nearly the end of the class. I decided to rush my part to allow the others their interpretation since I felt that explaining the theme behind the exhibition was more important than explaining about the artwork choice, I still give a general idea behind the order of the artwork. In the end, I feel like we did not provide.

What I particularly liked about the Combat Culture Curatorial class choice was that they selected their artwork with a purpose, unlike one of the other groups that decided that the order of the artwork did not matter to them, which left me puzzled. The point of a curatorial is to create a conversation between the chosen artwork, and a lack of order of those artworks would alter the

understanding of the exhibition. It also held a similar theme to my group's curatorial exhibition but different enough that it gave me a new perspective other topic. I feel like despite the constrictive time they had to present; they could still transmit the message of their curatorial.

We decided to decide the group once more for the label write-up by assigning three people to work on one single label. I was inside the group in charge of the label for the artwork *For My People* by Elizabeth Catlett. I completely agree with most of the labels except probably mentioning the artist because although the artwork inside the book belongs to her, the poem belongs to Margaret Walker. I preferred to have just

written about the artwork and made a small mention of the artists with the artwork; however, the others mentioned that it would have been better if we had left the line inside since it was important. So, I made no more comment about it. The detailed explanation of the artwork and how the symbolism works inside the artwork.

The Combat Culture shows the injustice that people continue to encounter throughout history and how it continues to affect people in our current times. This occurrence is still precedent because the voices that speak and attempt to bring attention to this issue are overseen or misinterpreted by society. Inside the curatorial exhibition, the artist illustrates the struggles that they have faced while also offering support and unifying their communities to face the discrimination uprooted inside society by prejudiced individuals centuries ago.

Art has been one of those means to communicate without using words. Throughout history, numerous testimonies of the horrors that minority communities have encountered have come and gone unnoticed by the rest of the population. However, there have been reforms in recent years that have stopped some of the most obvious forms of justice. How many more go unnoticed? Inside this curatorial are artworks such as *For My People* and *Literacy* that show communities' struggles to bear and deal with on their own. In the essay "*The First Modern Museums of Art*" by Paul, Carole mentions that a museum is; "a means of entering a wide range of philosophical discussions of knowing, perceiving and classifying that emerged in the humanistic and encyclopaedic traditions.

This is what Combat Culture has to do with their exhibition. Open the discussion of topics that in our current times have started to view as taboo due to how controversial

the topic can be and how they depict important figures in a bad light or that are often overseen since they are not seen as a pressing matter to address.

Although there have been activists and communities seeking to correct the wrongs made in the past and create better relationships between the majority and minority, it is hard to maintain activities since people would eventually leave and forget about those organizations or the movement's original purpose. However, the impact of a museum will prevail over time. The roots of a museum "was a bridge between social and intellectual life moving effortlessly between two realms," mentioned Paula Findlen. This curatorial exhibition would be the metaphorical bridge that could help educate people about the different communities that reside inside our communities and contribute positively to other communities with support. Although numerous historical moments have contributed to the cause, those events often look like just that, a part of history that caused a change and the motivation behind those actions. However, the imagery derived from those moments continues to impact more people than simple historical facts. Those paintings showing the past's struggles and being made in the present time have a greater impact since they make people aware that despite what history tells, The battle continues to this day and does not end when the history chapter is closed.

Work Cite

Findlen, Paula. The Museum: Its Classical Etymology and Renaissance Genealogy.

Journal of the History of Collections. (1989)

Paul, Carole. The First Modern Museums of Art. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2012. Getty

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