

Three Key Words Essay

In this essay, I will begin to explore my chosen three keywords. The three keywords are all completely different from each other. However, I hope that by looking at these words more in depth I can find certain connections to how they may relate. I will deconstruct and define each word. I will also look at how different artists have been able to demonstrate these themes within their art work. I will also look at the different points of views that theorists have on each of the subjects. Finally, I will analyse my words in an art and design context.

Emotions can range from basic states like happiness, sadness anger etc. The first word I am going to look at is emotions. We all have emotions...But what really are they? Emotions are reactions we experience mentally. What we feel all depends on the circumstances we are in. "followed the one natural impulse". Our emotions can play a big part in our daily lives and they are constantly changing due to no fault of our own but what we are experiencing in our unique lives. "Independent of experience, are the inherited of real danger". Emotions can be a positive and negative impact to us, they help us to decipher what we like and dislike. "The emotions aren't always immediately subject to reason, but they are always immediately subject to action". Emotions can also help us to communicate with others. "Certainly movements about their mouths are really expressive". For example when in a conversation many of us tend to express our emotions through our body language of facial expressions. "Functionalism, which sought casual relationships between internal states and external behaviours". This is to make it clear, how we feel about a certain subject. The way we feel as humans can help us prepare mentally for what is yet to come. When we have experienced a certain situation before hand that may have been boring or put us on edge, this can encourage us to not look forward to what is yet to come. Fear is one of the first ever emotions to have evolved within us. "It works to hinder future resolutions and emotions". Fear can help us to avoid danger. Charles Darwin who was a naturalist and geologist believed that emotions can help us as humans and animals to adapt when faced with danger in order to protect ourselves. He also believes there are only a small set of emotions joy, anger, sadness, fear, disgust and surprise. These emotions are passed down through our DNA and are in our genes -this isn't learnt behaviour.

Becoming fearful can trigger a humans 'fight or flight instinct', this means when people and animals are faced with danger. They have got two options to face the situation or remove themselves from the situation. "Who spends his life in a weltering sea of sensibility". Emotions come from the Limbic System in our brain. In the brain there is an almond shaped structure called the Amygdala This structures job is to trigger emotional responses that prepare our bodies to cope with fear or anger. There are three stages to our feelings and emotions. The first stage is the subjective component, this is how you experience the emotion. The next stage is the subjective component, this is how you experience the emotion. The final stage is the expressive component this is how you behave when responding to the emotions. Even though some emotions can encourage you to avoid certain situations. Some emotions can stimulate and motivate us such as if there is a task or hobby you enjoy participating in. These experiences can provide happiness.

(Mlodinow, L. (2022). *Emotional*. Penguin UK.)

(Goleman, D. (2009). *Working with emotional intelligence*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.)

Edvard Munch was a famous artist who was very experimental within the way that his paintings were created. "The most subtle states of mind". Every paint stroke captured raw emotion. "Without anxiety and illness, I am a ship without a rudder... My sufferings are part of my self and my art". Towards the end of Munch's life he lived in Oslo. Oslo's Museum has said that "the actual mental image of the existential angst of civilized man". One of his most well known paintings 'Scream' is filled with anxiety and alienation. The artworks he created have looked at themes such as anguish, fear, death and pain. Edward Munch dealt with a lot of trauma in his early life "My fear of life is necessary to me, as is my illness". Munch really believed in the importance of having a hidden message behind a piece of work "I do not believe in the art which is not the compulsive result of man's urge to open his heart".

Another artist that conveyed lots of emotion through. His personal way of demonstrating emotions was through the colour and distorted shapes he used to use. Picasso also used to add lots of highlights and shadows to his work to show the light and dark in the world and this translated to joy and sorrow. Picasso spent years expressing himself through his love of sculpting and painting, he

(Gilbert, D. (2007). *Stumbling on happiness*. New York Vintage.)

The second word that I am going to look at in more detail is 'Curiosity'. Curiosity is our drive to explore. A common saying is "Curiosity Killed the cat". This phrase refers to being too curious and this can be dangerous and lead to you getting into trouble. "Making people more hungry to learn, question and create". Curiosity is a feeling we get inside of us as humans or animals. "All of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking". Curiosity occurs when a complex topic arises that we want to know more about this can heighten the curiosity inside us. "The only person or thing that can make you stupid, or incurious is you". When we become curious we want to know the answers or try and find the information out ourselves. We all want to seek information this is in order to work out and survive within the environment we all live in. "the important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing". Curiosity translates to us internally being more motivated to find out knowledge that we don't already have. "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious". When a person is really inquisitive about a certain topic our brain enters its 'curious state'. When the brain realises that it is in this stage and we are deprived of the knowledge it is wanting to find out. Researchers have discovered that dopamine is given off when we have found out the information. Dopamine is a reward chemical. Overall, there are two types of curiosity, one is called Epistemic curiosity, this is a when we are motivated to find out new information, to fill the gaps within your brain. Then there is Empathetic curiosity, this curiosity is when you want to know what other people are thinking or feeling. "A clue that humans are designed to learn from others". Curiosity helps us to grow as humans. "The important thing is to never stop questioning". Rene Margritte is famous for creating her surrealist paintings they are known for challenging the viewers perceptions. One of her most famous pieces of art work is called "This is not a pipe". Leonardo Da Vinci is another artist that explores curiosity through his anatomical sketches. They explore the natural world. Yayoi Kusama is well known for her immersive installations, just like her 'Infinity Mirror Room' which explores different reflections, this allows her audiences minds to become curious and wonder.

(Leslie, I. (2015). *Curious : the desire to know & why your future depends on it*. London: Quercus.)

Our world is filled with texture. The word texture depends on the characteristics a surface, has to it for example its size, shape or density. Textures can be described as smooth, rough, soft, hard, coarse, fine, matte or glossy. The word texture can be separated into two categories, there are tactile textures and visual textures. A tactile texture refers to the feel of a surface. Whereas visual textures refer to the look of a surface to a person. Textures can be man made or natural. Many artists and designers are able to create various textures through the different techniques they use to create their work. "Giving a visual sense of texture rather than physical one". Texture can channel different emotions from their audience "The painting surface itself can provide a texture" When it comes to art texture is really important as it is one of the seven building blocks of art. Artists can use textures to create contrast, make the composition more balanced, they may use it as a focal point to draw the public in or add depth to their artwork. "Exploit the textural qualities of different media". The different types of texture within a piece of art are Actual texture which can only be experienced in real life, and this comes down to what material the artwork is made out of. "Texture can come from the actual surface, the physical characteristics of the materials being used". Implied/Visual texture this is how the artist chooses to achieve the texture through possibly painting, drawing by using shadows or highlights. "Texture can be created by using, for example, resist, scumbled and dry-brush techniques". Functional texture for example in textiles a jacket could be made from wool, intentionally to make it warm and for comfort.

It is important to add texture to a piece of artwork because it encourages the audience to think, it will allow the public to experience different artworks in their own unique way. It can also allow the artist to experiment with different materials, "Enhance and add to these textures as the work progresses". Painting onto different surfaces e.g. sand, fabric, wood, stone, plastic, rubber can give a diverse range of effects. Three dimensional artists tend to use lots of different textures in one piece of artwork. These will contradict each other and make their work more interesting. Vincent Van Gough is known for using texture in his work as he uses big expressive brush marks. This creates thick paint that lifts off the canvas. Another artist known for creating texture is Jackson Pollock when he creates his drip paintings. He creates these by splattering paint onto a surface. Anselm Kiefer uses straw, ash and lead to create his massive murals. He layers all these organic textures on top of each other to make new unique textures. Texture sparks a variety of emotions in viewers and allows the artist to engage with their audience.

(Bernard, M. and Capon, R. (2016). *Collage, Colour and Texture in Painting*. Batsford.)

To conclude, I believe that all of the keywords, I have chosen link together really well. You can't have curiosity without emotions. Artwork can draw curiosity out of us so that we feel certain emotions. When an artist creates a piece of work they can explore different forms of textures. Curiosity can lead to us wanting to explore different textures. When we are curious we often want to touch, feel and examine certain textures to understand them better. Curiosity is closely linked to our emotions as it occurs when we want to explore, understand something new. When we are able to discover something new we are often filled with excitement. The different textures invite the public to be more curious and can also channel a wider range of emotions as well. The three key words are completely different but I have been able to discover relations when researching what they mean in depth. These words were really interesting to explore and they have made me realise that the way we feel about various artworks channels different feelings within us and also where the artwork is displayed can also have an affect on our mental state. Our minds are constantly questioning and exploring to find out the answers - this is how we never stop learning. Next year, I would like to look at the question 'how does art allow us to feel?'

Bibliography

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