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Annotated Bibliography: 23/10/2024

Word count: 989

I declare that all the material contained is my own work.

I have chosen a total of three research sources including books and websites, to cover an array of relevant topics covered within my thesis. All sources work towards identifying and substantiating each particular keynote made within the research project. These symbolic ideas include symbolism in colours, anthropology, bereavement/ grieving practices and processes over time (internationally). The piece I am making is a tribute to the death of my friend in late 2023 which is why these research topics are relevant to its creation.

Source 1: China A History – John Keay (Darian Leader, 2009)

Summary: This book covers an array of topics across various Chinese dynasties over the centuries, starting from 1050c B.C, through to the 1950s 20c A.D. The content consists of multiple topics from wars, positions of power through time and archaeological finds. The author, John Keay is a journalist, lecturer (through both the UK and Southeast Asia) and historian, with a particular proclivity to cover the history of places across Asia (including Nepal, India and China). The information reported in this edition is relevant to my thesis material due to the authors dear attention to burial and art practices surrounding death. I have found it important to research international discoveries as it is vital to recognise their similarities, although these cultures may never have had any means of contact with one another. The symbolism included in the colours and materials of burial practices overtime has been reoccurring although these different cultures have had no contact, which reflects a deeper subconscious decision to use materials such as ceramics, jade, and cinnabar, rather than a conscious one based on pre-existing knowledge of our ancestors' actions.

Evaluation: The information provided in this book is historically correct and has been obtained from multiple reputable sources such as a minimum of ten museums, two universities and personal research taken place throughout the countries the author has travelled to while writing about them. The information provided does have photographic evidentiary support provided if it is available for the topic in question.

Connection: This book has helped me to obtain an understanding of Chinas history, how they view/ handle death and funerary practices. This directly corresponds to the theme of the piece being discussed for my thesis. Throughout my research I have focused on multiple cultures internationally, each with one commonality in particular, the ritualistic over-comings of death and preservation of the dead. All, if not most using similar minerals such as Cinnabar or Jade and including materials such as ceramic or glass pots, offerings, death masks and the likes of.

Source 2: Lachrymatory.com. (Lachrymatory.com, 2024)

Summary: This website is a small source with a collection of theories and historic information on tear collecting over different time periods. The theory of tear collection historically is not proven by scientific facts, there is evidentiary support in favour of the opposite. However, it is still theorised that eras such as the Victorian led to this practice in more modern times. The Victorians are well known for their morbid fascinations with death and odd rituals surrounding the topic. Including keeping locks of hair from the recently deceased, taking photographic portraits with them and stopping all clocks in a home in accordance with a loved one's time of death. Arguments are made that due to mention of collecting tears in the bible has led to people to take part in the practice. *"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."* Psalms 56.8. it is important to note that the translation has been updated multiple times over the centuries and may not have reflected the exact same message during the 1800s.

Evaluation: The source states that theories of tear collecting came from archaeologists that started to discover small bottles made from glass, animal skins and ceramic jars in tombs of the deceased. Scientific tests have since been developed on these phials since then and found no evidence of tears, rather perfumes and alcohols, which would have been an important piece of the funerary rituals performed by the ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians for their beloveds' journeys into the afterlife.

Connection: Although there is no definitive scientific evidence proving a HISTORIC use of lachrymary bottles, the romanticised notion of collecting tears as a measurement or honorary bestowment of grief for those loved, worshipped, valued and lost has led to people currently contributing to this practice. Therefore, even though there is no ancient and historic evidence, people today definitely partake in this practice. Myself included for the piece I am currently building.

Source 3: The New Black – Darian Leader (Keay, 2011)

Summary: The New Black, in summary, refers to multiple sources differentiating and describing the dissimilarities, connections and connections of mourning, melancholia, grief and depression. This includes Freuds theories and small essay 'Mourning and Melancholia' 1915. With brief mentions of the likes of Edgar Allan Poe's history with childhood tragedy revolving around his mother's demise. Damian also touches upon the parallels between art pieces and movements that reflect those messages (Cubism, de Chirico and Morandi).

Evaluation: This book uses multiple historic events that are factually proven and reflect the authors themes of heavy topics such as the holocaust and its effects on the eradication of Jewish history and memorialisation. Mention of these events are used to provide further substance to the theories of the effects of death on the living raised continuously throughout. There is acknowledgement of true historical facts and events as well as theories founded on emotional and psychological evidence from the effects of experiencing someone else's death, causing grief, mourning and melancholia as the title states.

Connection: This source has been helpful in identifying words and theories that can be used within my thesis essay, regarding an art piece I am producing about the demise of a beloved friend. Not only is this book a source within itself, but it also provides links to further projects and theories that have covered similar topics to substantiate its points.

Bibliography:

Keay, J. (2011). *China : a History*. New York: Basic Books. [Accessed 22 Oct. 2024]

Darian Leader (2009). *The new black : mourning, melancholia and depression*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Graywolf Press. [Accessed 22 Oct. 2024]

Lachrymatory.com. (2024). *Lachrymatory Tear Bottle Information - A reference, research, and history site for collectors of tear catchers*. [online] Available at: <http://lachrymatory.com> [Accessed 22 Oct. 2024].