

How and why is site specific art different to a framed photograph?

‘The term site-specific refers to a work of art designed specifically for a particular location and that has an interrelationship with the location’ (Tate, n.d.)

A site-specific artwork is an artwork that is only an artwork in the original place that it was created or made to reflect the place that it's in once it's taken out of the place it's destroyed.



The first artwork that I looked at that you can only understand the contexts of the site specific is Weiwei 'remembering' site specific piece that showed a tragedy that was pushed aside by the Chinese government in 2008 because of Weiwei's work he was exiled from China because his work showed a dark side to the Chinese government. 'Why was this exhibited in Germany not China?' when I first looked at Weiwei's remembering I thought he was pointing out Germany's dark history to do with the holocaust but now doing more research into it can almost be seen as both, but due to Ai Weiwei being exiled from China it was a lot safer for him to do a site specific work in a completely different country.

The 9000 backpack to represent the 9000 school children that died in an earthquake the message that is written using backpacks translates to "She lived happily for seven years in this world" in mandarin. (Ai Weiwei Remembering Translation - Google Search, n.d.). Which sounds very harrowing because his work is about 9000 children dying and the Chinese government not saying or doing anything about it like these children had no significant meaning to them. Weiwei used primary and secondary colours to create this artwork I found that by him using those colours instead of darker colours made the work have more of a meaning.

because when you think about primary and secondary colours you think of childhood and Weiwei work is reflecting the loss of childhood.



The second artwork i looked at had a completely different contrast to Weiwei's. Muddy dance by Eric Kessels celebrates the movement of football in a site-specific artwork that uses framed artwork within site specific. Kessels muddy dance has one thing missing from all the images which is the ball, so all the players look like there doing a little dance. This artwork can be seen different from a site specific because of the uses of photographs on the pitch itself where these images themselves were in a book as photograph but were moved to a site, so it created a site specific but it's mainly photographs that people can interact with.

I find that the main difference between these two practitioners is that one does use material based in a site Ai Weiwei 'remembering' and Kessel 'muddy dance' are very different Weiwei creates a colourful atmosphere with back packs which is speaking out against something, which creates a site specific, but with Kessel's 'muddy dance' it's using photographs on a football pitch where it does become a site specific where it's very different compared to Weiwei's 'remembering'. The main difference with a site specific and a photograph is that if you take the site specific out of the site its self-it's completely destroyed but you can move round a photograph and it's still the same photograph so Kessel 'muddy dance' can be moved around to different football pitches without it technically being destroyed because it's a photograph.

In my conclusion a I find that a site specific and a framed image if very different from each other because you can't take a site-specific artwork out of the site it was made it no longer has meaning but if you take a framed image to place to place and it will still have the same meaning.