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Task 2 – Jon Pugh - **Reflective Writing** (500 Words)

I have chosen to reflect upon on the sculpture *Stack*, created in 1975 by British artist *Tony Cragg*. Born April 9, 1949 Liverpool. I came across this piece last year in Tate Museum, London. Aside the scale of the sculpture, it was something which stood out to me and was something I found very intriguing. As a believer that everyone has their own interpretation of art, personally I feel that this piece in particular has a very extortionary impact involving environmental and global issues.

Stack is a sculpture of assorted objects and materials bonded tightly together to form a solid geometric cube. The artefact itself is assembled with various instruments from building materials to old magazines. (Barney's Magazine, March 8 2019). The formation of the shape is carried by planks of wood, which have all non-accurate dimensions and are built horizontally repeatedly throughout the structure. This compresses the rest of the materials into a dense stratum allowing it to convey the impression of geological layers. For me, I find this piece very satisfying, as waste is something seen quite negatively. It's then created into a neat piece of work which I find the juxtaposition of it very interesting and quite for-filling.

The *Stack* resembles a cross-section view of long-forgotten, buried rubbish. This references both to geology and archaeology resounds throughout *Tony Cragg's* career. '*I'm most interested in the emotional side of things*' (quoted by *Tony Cragg* in The Guardian, March 2017). I feel that he's approaching his audience and highlighting the agenda of exploring a deeper meaning. It's said he seeks to explore a '*poetic mythology*' for the industrially produced products of our time.

Cragg, himself states 'The objects of our industrial society as yet have very little information attached to them, so even if something like plastic can be accepted as a valid material for use, it still remains very unoccupied' (quoted in *Tony Cragg, exhibition catalogue, Musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart, 1992, p.61*).

I feel that *Cragg's* sculpture influences a great version of recycling and 'upcycling' general waste and wasted product. I feel that it is powerful, in the way it is very eye-opening to the topic of waste material and general waste, which is rejected by people of the world and its environment which is uncared for. I feel that much more purposeful meaning of *Stack* is the idea of it being only a very small percentage of waste and '*long-forgotten rubbish*' piled; with the scale of that alone is very large. I feel that this allows us as the viewer to reflect and think about sceneries such as landfills, and dumps. But also influencing the idea that to tackle climate change; which is top of the list of global issues.

Tony Cragg's work has been described as a 'study of the relationship of the part to the whole', an idea influenced from particle physics (quoted in *A Quiet Revolution, p.54*). I feel that this relates to humanities relationship with the world and inspires me with the idea that it treats us the way we treat it.

Image of the '*Stack*'
(my own images)



Referencing:

<http://www.artnet.com/artists/tony-cragg/> (Website)

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/mar/05/tony-cragg-sculpture-interview-rare-category-objects> (Newspaper)

<https://www.barnebys.com/blog/tony-cragg-sculptor-of-energy> (Magazine)

Musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart, Rochechouart 1992, p.61). (Book)

A Quiet Revolution: British Sculpture Since 1965, exhibition catalogue, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago 1987, p.56, reproduced p.61. (Book)

Tony Cragg, exhibition catalogue, Hayward Gallery, London 1987, reproduced p.45. (Book)

Tony Cragg: Sculpture 1975-90, exhibition catalogue, Newport Harbour Art Museum, Newport Beach 1990, p.30, reproduced in colour, p.33. (Book)

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/tony-cragg-sculpture-yorkshire-sculpture-park> (Article/Newspaper)

Task 3 – Ryan Moule - **Observational Writing** (500 Words)

The exhibition of the piece the '*Stack*' focuses on mainly on resonance of stacking, within *Cragg's* practice. From the photographs you can see *Cragg's* arranged a variety of materials in multiple layers to form a large geometrical like structure.

My first impression from this piece underlined the idea of destruction, ruin and even poverty. In more unordinary sense I feel that the material signifies in opposition the 'world of boring and repetitive forms' and that 'simple geometries' commonplace in modern industry (quoted by *Tony Cragg* in *The Guardian*, March 2017). The individual planks and rubble signifying as the stronger, and much more structured elements of the piece could also replicate the world of power; council, government, and even political parties. Leaving the much smaller, fragile pieces people of public society. And the idea of one without the other only leaves something which doesn't stand. The layers acting as a movement in government history. Explaining the 'repetitive forms' as the same mistakes are being made or not enough is being done in some places of the world; exploring the 'poverty' semiotic.

Cragg's asserts that different material products represent emotional experiences both for himself, and the audience. Which leads me onto the next version of this piece. A balance of materials between one another, materials which included both natural and synthetic elements. I feel that this disguises the idea of layers represented are the layers of the earth and its geological structure. An example of this would demonstrate how both man-made materials against natural materials and how they are incorporate into the layers of the earth and are shaped overtime. Explaining my previous views throughout reflection and the idea of waste and landfill. 'Sculpture is not only measuring itself against nature, changes in climate, time of day – all these have an effect' (quoted by *Tony Cragg* in *The Guardian*, March 2017). I have also noticed there is very limited colour scheme with the materials *Cragg's* chosen to use, all which are very earthy, neutral colours; consisting of browns, greys, white and cream tones.

As for the sculptor himself, interested in geology and someone to collect fossils and rocks, and his taxonomical understanding of the world, he has said that he sees manmade objects as 'fossilized keys to a past time which is our present' (*Seeing behind the surface; with Tony Cragg* Interview, October 15, 2016). With this insight and observation of the *Stack* it inspires me to the idea of landscape, and knowing what's exactly buried underneath it, as for us and people of society only ever see the surface of everything, from the light which reflects off the surface onto our eye, but *Cragg's* idea of the whole thing is that it is thought we always have this psychological pressure to see behind that surface. Which is believed to be the basis of sculpture for all time (*Seeing behind the surface; with Tony Cragg* Interview, October 15, 2016).

As an overall I feel that I understand this piece of work a lot more than I did from my first visit at Tate Modern Museum. I now see a lot more than old buried materials, and giant geometrical cube. A much more meaningful and representative piece of art not only created for the eyes of the public but for those who can gaze upon their own interpretation and imagination as well visiting *Cragg's* purpose and exploring truth and possibility from *Stack*, the sculptor crafted in 1975.



'Stack' by Tony Cragg, 1975 at the Royal Academy's Modern British Sculpture exhibition – The Telegraph (*Newspaper*)

Referencing:

<https://www.galleriesnow.net/shows/tony-cragg-stacks/> (*Website*)

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/mar/05/tony-cragg-sculpture-interview-rare-category-objects> (*Newspaper*)

www.thequietus.com – Seeing behind the surface; with Tony Cragg (*Interview*)

<http://www.artnet.com/artists/tony-cragg/> (*Website*)

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/mar/05/tony-cragg-sculpture-interview-rare-category-objects> (*Newspaper*)

<https://www.barnebys.com/blog/tony-cragg-sculptor-of-energy> (*Magazine*)

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<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/tony-cragg-sculpture-yorkshire-sculpture-park> (*Article/Newspaper*)

Task 1 – Julia Lockheart- **Manifesto Writing** (500 Words)

“Remember, life happens for us, not to us.”

Throughout the time of congregating this manifesto I have formed ideas of things out of the ordinary, I feel that I have also admitted a lot to one's self and thought deeply about my true passions and beliefs. I have also found harmony with the idea of this being a huge part of who I am, and the way I go about life for the reasons I do. Like many, many others I often wonder why things work out the way they do, I why I make some decisions and not others, and why the people we love hurt us and why we hurt people. As for the statement *‘everything happens for reason’* is it something I rely heavy on and is something I have grown to love and hate. For the most common reasons, for example; bad things happen to good people, and people suffer in some way or another throughout life. However, this is the exact reason why it's so important to me. I feel that it is a version of power and realisation for preparation of what's to come. Positively speaking, it is assisting you for a better future, and controls the mindset *‘you can't have the pleasure of success without suffering through the pain of defeat’*. I believe even when these are tragedies outside of our control, there is reason for them.

““The ability to attract lives into our lives whatever we are focusing on.”

Within my manifesto I included the idea of ‘the law of attraction’. It is said that it is the attractive, magnetic power of the Universe which draws similar energies together; which means you magnetically draw things vibrating on the same frequency. For example, if you work to maintain a high frequency (positivity, love, compassion, and productivity) then you inevitably end up with more good things in your life. It manifests through the power of creation, everywhere and in many ways. It says even the law of gravity is part of the law of attraction. This law attracts thoughts, ideas, people, situations and circumstances. I feel that this something to which I would motivate myself with, in the past I have allowed this idea to persuade myself. I also believe people connect on wave lengths of emotion and experience. I would definitely say this is something I have experienced, when it comes to friends, family and even partners. I have simply connected with them in a moment just due to feeling the same way, or having a funny feeling something. The history goes on, and the work of science, it is said quantum physicists during recent years have a greater understanding we have on just how significant role the mind plays in shaping our lives and the world around us.

“Is paper money the biggest fraud on human history?”

Money, money is power. Money is control it shapes your life automatically. However, I believe physical money is actually worthless I often wonder about people of the nation who work more for less, and are generally sinking themselves deeper into debt. Whereas most of the people attribute it merely to the economy or the government, complain and leave it at that; whilst they realise how the banking and monetary system works and how that affects them. I feel that the majority of people believe that the money they have is backed by gold or silver and that it what gives it value. In reality money hasn't been backed by anything since 1971. And now what we have is a fiat currency, which is money, backed by absolutely nothing.

1. Everyone has their own interruption of world.
2. Everything is art, or can at least become it.
3. Everything happens for a reason.
4. The law of attraction.
5. I believe in everything, or do I believe in nothing?
6. Time has more value than money.
7. Money is actually worthless.
8. Society is simultaneously brainwashed.

Referencing:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=24&ved=2ahUKEwjUmfi8y-3mAhURShUIHS9dAU4QFjAXegQIARAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.huffpost.com%2Fentry%2F10-examples-of-why-things_b_10588562&usg=AOvVaw0YAZLmE5IJRA1CuSB7OQFL

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