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Programme Study: Design Craft; Glass, Ceramics,
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Module: ADDA4022/C Ways of Thinking

Tasks:

Task one: Manifesto

Task two: Observational Writing

Task three: Practice based writing

Task 1: Manifesto

- 1. I will make art that is functional**
2. I start a piece of work without preconceptions of the final outcome
- 3. I respond to the materials and processes.**
4. I will explore working in a mix of different mediums.
- 5. I am interested in aesthetics and sensory art. I want to make artwork that is pleasing to the eye and to the touch.**
6. Art doesn't have to have a meaning – it can just BE. Art doesn't have to be political; it doesn't have to make a statement, it just is.
7. Art doesn't have to make sense
8. I will sell my work

Explanation of three out of eight ideas:

1. I will make art that is functional

If one were to push the notion of what "art" is, one could go so far as to declare that all works of art may be considered "functional." In the past, making tools for hunting, eating, and gathering water was primarily done for practical purposes. However, as humanity evolved, so did art. The numerous artistic ceramic creations that are still produced by artists and offered for sale at craft fairs or displayed; these pieces serve as both a food or drink vessel and a means of recognition, expression, or financial gain for the artist (Duzel, 2018). As stated in 'Ways of Thinking' by John Berger:

"We never look at just one thing; we are always looking at the relation between things and ourselves. Our vision is continually active, continually moving, continually holding things in a circle around itself, constituting what is present to us as we are" (Berger, 1972, pp. 9).

Interpreting this perspective has helped me to understand that some people only see the aesthetics and not the function, while others only value the function and not see the beauty in the piece.



Figure 1 Salvador Dali, artcontext, (2022)

3. I respond to the materials and processes.

Hand processing of materials has existed for as long as civilisation. As soon as the raw materials are mined from minerals or made from basic chemicals or natural substances, the cycle of manufacturing processes that transform materials into parts and products begins. As with ceramics, natural clay is combined with different silicates to provide the basic material for ceramic products. One or both of two primary tasks are carried out by the procedures that transform raw materials into final goods: first, they shape the material into the appropriate shape; second, they change or enhance the material's characteristics (Britannica, 2019). As discussed in *Ways of Thinking* Everything is centred on the viewer's sight thanks to the European art tradition of perspective, which dates to the early Renaissance. It resembles a lighthouse beam, only appearances move inside rather than outward (Berger, 1972). This is how I feel when responding to the materials.



Figure 2 Lesley (2023)

5. I am interested in aesthetic and sensory art. I want to make artwork that is pleasing to the eye and to the touch.

“In an effective blend of the familiar and the novel, modern experiential branding evokes the allure of sensory perception. If that perception is sufficiently interesting, pleasant, meaningful, or emotionally stirring, then it has aesthetic impact. Products and brands

suffused by that aesthetic impact transcend the realm of functionality and enter the realm of art aesthetic and sensory art” (<https://link.springer.com/journal/11747>).

“At its core, sensory art transcends the visual experience, enveloping participants in a multi-dimensional realm where sense, sight, sound, touch, taste and smell are actively engaged” (Vanburen- World of Sensory Art January 11th 2024).

Reference List

Berger, J. (1972). *Ways of Seeing*. London: Penguin.

Britannica (2019). Materials processing. In: *Encyclopædia Britannica*. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/materials-processing>.
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Duzel (2018). *On ‘Functional’ and ‘Non-Functional’ Art and the purpose of art itself*. [online] Boston Autumns.

Vanburen- World of Sensory Art January 2024.

Figures

Fig, 1 artincontext and artincontext (2022). *Functional Art - Explore the Interesting World of Utilitarian Art*. [online] artincontext.org. Available at: <https://artincontext.org/functional-art/>.

Fig, 2 Lesley (2023). *How to Make Clay from Dirt – Perfect Natural Clay Creations*. [online] Pottery Tips by The Pottery Wheel. Available at: <https://thepotterywheel.com/make-clay-from-dirt/> [Accessed 16 Dec. 2024].

Task 2: Observational Writing



“Signs take the form of words, [images](#), sounds, odours, flavours, acts or objects, but such things have no intrinsic meaning and become signs only when we invest them with meaning” (Daniel Chandler - Semiotics for Beginners 1994).

In this image, we see Uncle Sam who is a fictional figure and is being used to inspire patriotism in young men to encourage them join the army. This is suggested in the colours used, the red also known as “Old Glory Red”, white and blue also known as “Old Glory Blue” and the stars on his tall hat were taken from the American flag (uk.usembassy.gov).

Designed by James Montgomery in 1917, the image of Uncle Sam was used as a recruiting poster in World War I and then in World War II with the caption “I Want You”, has become a popular symbol for the United States (Britannica.com). There is no background in this

picture, focusing instead on the image of Uncle Sam pointing a finger at the reader singling them out with the text “I Want You” with a different font in capitals used for the “You” brings home the message even further that your country wants you to fight for it.

Reference List

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/uncle-sam-man-and-meme>

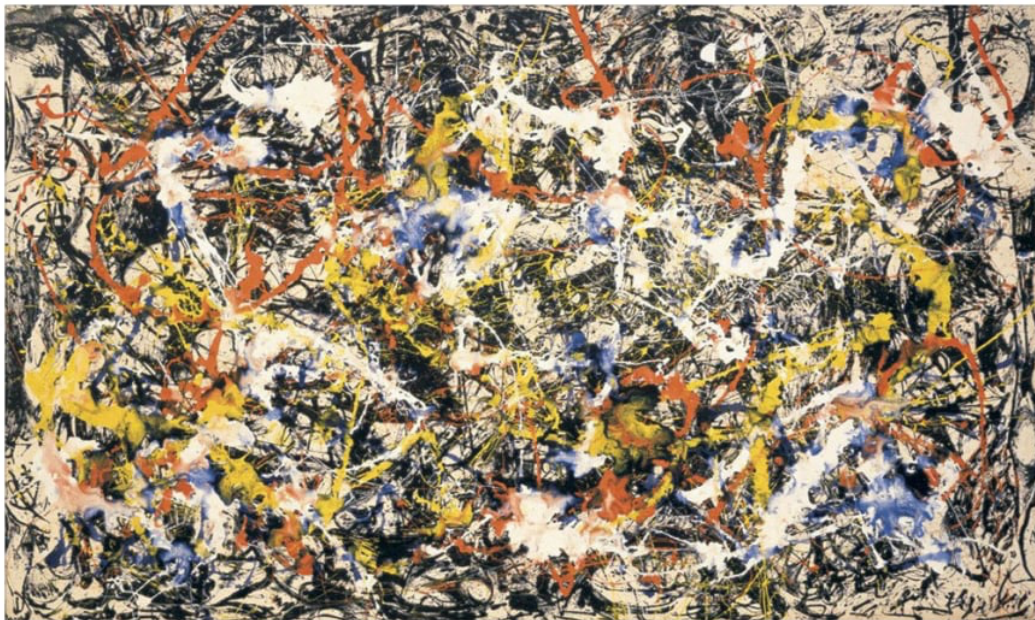
Britannic.com/topic/Uncle-Sam

<http://www.visual-memory.co.uk/daniel/Documents/S4B/>

[Semiotics for Beginners by Daniel Chandler](#)

Task 3: Practice based writing

Jackson Pollock



Convergence
Jackson Pollock (1952)

It looks like the art had developed by itself. It evolved with time. Pollock may not have had a clear idea of what it was going to be. I really like the mix of colours, the natural flow of them. It is well balanced. The colours complement each other. I would describe it as natural chaos. It looks like it was fun to make. I am drawn to creative processes that are free, imprecise and expressive. I would assume that he had no ideologic intent. There is no story there. It is just a piece of work. I am more drawn to this type of work than work that carries a narrative or message.

Even though Pollock's paintings look haphazard and random, Pollock had a great understanding of the different types of paints that he used in his paintings and how they will react. When working on a painting he knew what he wanted to accomplish using natural flowing lines and controlled pourings and drips, as well as using spatulas, knives, sticks and other tools to create the image. Sometimes even including such items like sticks or nails in his paintings. Pollock painted Convergence in 1952, beginning in black and white paint only. Not satisfied with the result he added a burst of colour to salvage the piece. The resulting artwork became one of Pollock's most famous paintings(www.kingandmccgaw.com/prints/jackson-pollock/convergence).

Practical Response

I created my own piece in response to the influence by the artist Jackson Pollock and Pablo Picasso. I enjoyed making the piece and mixing the two styles together to create something new. This mixing of different styles and techniques has been an interest of mine for many years and I have used this not only in the art that I have created but also in the food that I prepare which is in itself is a work of art.



Reference List

https://www.kingandmccgaw.com/prints/jackson-pollock/convergence-188678#188678::frame:880611_glass:770006_media:0_mount:108651_mount-width:50

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U19VOF4qfs>