Ekphrastic Essay Assignment Description

Draft for workshop, November 10th

Essay due Thursday, November 12th

Purpose

We take in the world through our senses. This assignment will be an opportunity for you to explore expression and sensory detail in your writing. As exemplified by the ekphrastic readings on art, music, and performance, this assignment will be an ekphrastic essay inspired by a work of art, music, or performance of YOUR choice. You will use the creative work as a prompt to explore your personal connection to the work, a subject of interest that it triggers for you (can include research), or any nonfiction narrative that it inspires. The work must be "seen" or "heard" by the reader, described with enough sensory detail that the reader can connect to your words through the work, even though they are not seeing or hearing it with you.

Method

This is a chance for you to stretch your creative writing muscles and integrate art or music or performance you love into your narrative. You will be exploring artwork from the permanent collection at the CATLab in PCAC on Thursday, October 22nd and continue reading about and writing on music and performance throughout the unit. Around our discussions, we will brainstorm your options and see where your broccoli lands.

You may write on a work of art—sculpture, painting, drawing, etc., a piece of music—a song, an album, or a performance you have seen—a play, a musical, a dance performance. This is not a review, but a thoughtful weaving of a creative work with your personal narrative. What does this work inspire in you? What has it given you? What did the experience teach you? Think deeply about how this artwork, song, performance is meaningful to you. You may include context or research from other sources, but the essay is still about you.

Essays must include the title and artist's name as well as adequate description of the work.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Drafts of this essay will be due for conference and workshop. Someone you want to share your artwork, music, or performance with, someone who has never seen or heard the work you chose.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Someone you want to share your interest of this person, place, or thing with.

Length & Format

Minimum of 5 pages. Double-spaced, 12 pt. font, etc. (see syllabus). This is your chance to capture a creative work you love and bring it to life in a meaningful way. Be creative in both subject and style! This assignment is worth **20%** of your final grade.