

Single Frame Narrative

narrative:(n) a story; *narrative: (adj)* of a storytelling nature

description

Narrative is a defining aspect of human nature. It is not far fetched to say that all modes of human expression primarily serve the purpose of creating narratives, perhaps in order to render the fleeting events and perceptions of life into something more concrete and contemplative. Narration is how we bring order and meaning to our universe. Even history is essentially a narrative, a construction based more on invention than fact.

objective

For this project you will be required to research an historical 2d narrative object from a NYC museum that allows photography of its permanent collection (MMA and MOMA.....others?) After a detailed analysis of the narrative depiction, you will create an original design that represents a contemporary narrative in the style of the historical narrative object.

The final project must incorporate both tactile (collage, drawing, and /or painting) and digital (Photoshop montage.)

Part One: Historical Narrative Object

museum visit

Visit a local museum that allows photography of its permanent collection.

Find a 2D object that is visually compelling to you and depicts a narrative.

The object can be from any period in history, any culture, and any 2D medium providing it is not straight photography and not black and white.

Photograph the object *clearly*:

- Grid lines turned on
- High resolution
- Color
- No flash
- Minimal lens warp

written analysis

Write a one-page analysis of the object that answers the following questions:

1. What is the narrative about? Be specific and complete.
2. Does the object depict the narrative from beginning to end or only part of the narrative?
3. How is the narrative depicted visually?
 - How does the artist stage the scene?
 - How does the bounding edge frame the scene (active or passive, crop or vignette?)
 - How does the artist direct the scene (i.e., lead the viewer around the picture and through the narrative?)
 - What role does color play?
 - What is the relationship between the actors on stage and the audience?

Attach a cover page with a reproduction of the image that lists title, origin, artist, date, and medium.

Part Two: Contemporary Narrative Object

newspaper research

Search newspapers for a compelling narrative. The narrative can be of any nature (political, historical, biographical, human interest, etc.)

What makes for a compelling narrative? Narratives that pull back the veil on human behavior to reveal deeper truths are the narratives that transcend the anecdotal details of plot and character. A compelling narrative adds up to a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Clip or download the article(s). Make sure to cite publication, author, and dates.

original work

Gather any photographic materials that will be helpful to visualizing the narrative (you may need to search outside the article for any available photos specific to the events and characters.) Make sure to cite your sources. You will create everything else.

Represent in 2D visual form the narrative *in the style of* the historical object you researched. "In the style of" does NOT mean copying the technique of the historical narrative; rather it means using the same visual devices (composition, lighting, perspective, etc) to bring the contemporary narrative to life. The emphasis is on imitating the stagecraft, not the technical craft, of the historical narrative object.

Required technical elements:

- Photography: all photographs must be high resolution and unblurry
- Photoshop montage tools (selection tools, layer masks, adjustments layers)
- Tactile media

Final format: 24" plotter print