Workshop: Intro to Sustainability

Course Info: Melissa Csoke, ART 110, Art Appreciation

Lecture Title: The topic of sustainability in art

Learning Outcomes (course): Better understanding of why artists create, what they attempt to address, as well as how that message is perceived by viewers

Learning Outcomes (assignment): Understand the complexity of sustainability, how we are impacting it and impacted by it, and identifying the issues around sustainability

Critical Thinking Component: Critically looking at art and analyzing meaning behind works is founded in critical thinking. Participating in class discussion about the work therefore requires critical thinking.

Relevancy to Students: Learning about sustainability, their impact, and one method people are addressing it (communication through contemporary art) will certainly make the issue relevant to them. The fact that artists use media and concepts that are common to us will reinforce their messages and relate even more notably to students.

Actual Assignment: I give a daily question during the first 5 minutes of class (open-note and based on the textbook readings to “inspire” them to do their readings,) which will be based on the definition of sustainability. (I’ll assign that as a reading instead of usual textbook reading.) We will then watch “Story of Stuff.” The day’s lecture/ class discussion will focus on select works including those by Subodh Gupta and Andreas Gursky. The class will end with a brief reflection exercise that I will collect.

Method of Assessment: Class discussion, a question regarding that class’s content on the final exam, and a brief writing response at the end of class will reflect the impact of that segment of the curriculum.