**Museum and Gallery Visits**

Visiting art galleries and museums is a great way to learn about artists, form you own ideas, and enrich your understanding of curatorial practice.

**BEFORE YOU GO:**

**Be sure to view the Art St. Louis gallery/museum list on our class website!**

Familiarize yourself first with what you are going to see. Museums and some galleries will have a website with images, information, biographies, etc.

1. What is the title of the show?
2. What are the key themes, styles, artists?
3. What is the cultural context and background?

Keep a record of information and evidence of exhibitions seen. Documentation might include brochures, images, websites, personal photos, drawing, and notes. Include your critical reflections, visual note taking and drawings in your visual journal. These pages may add value to your Process Portfolio and the Comparative Study.

Bring your camera, your RWB, and drawing/writing materials to the exhibition. Do a preliminary wander through the exhibit, then go back to the beginning and walk through again, stopping to really look at a few key works. Make visual annotations in your RWB.

**VISUAL NOTE-TAKING:**

Small sketches record the artwork and serve as a memory aid. The aim is not to make an exact copy, but to register an image on the page and in your mind. Once you have drawn it, you will not forget it! Visual annotation helps you remember ideas and makes good material for the Process Portfolio.

1. Make drawings in front of an artwork that you see for yourself; don’t rely on second-hand sources (reproductions)
2. Sketch the physical space of the exhibition, an overview of the exhibition plan, or even an architectural study of the building
3. Make annotations in your RWB to accompany the sketches

**Contemporary art galleries and site-specific work:**

Contemporary art galleries can present ideal opportunities for observing different methods of display, including site-specific digital and interactive works. Use the following guiding questions for on-site reflection:

1. What different methods of display can you observe? How is art hung, placed, lit, spaced and otherwise displayed?
2. Do you see any shows that explore a theme or thread? Describe how the work is related through exploration of ideas. Describe how work is related through visual connections.
3. Is you experience as the viewer influenced by the way the work is presented?
4. Do you see any site-specific art, made in response to the location? How is it specific to the site?
5. Are there any occasions in which you are drawn in to participate or interact with the work?

**POST VISIT REFLECTION:**

Use your RWB to reflect on the exhibition and your personal response to the work encountered.

1. What was the most interesting thing about this show (for example, how it is curated, the space, themes addressed, individual artists)?
2. Did you especially like or dislike some work? Explain why, using subject-specific art language.
3. Were there any themes, ideas, or materials that you are exploring in your studio work or that you’d like to try out?
4. Include plenty of images, photos, drawings, graphic notes, as well as written content to make the pages lively and visually interesting. MAKE SURE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SOURCES