Essay 2: “Representation, Equality, and Autonomy” – Analyzing Art

- class meets in the Wignall Museum
- proposal & Wignall worksheet (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due
- research notes (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due
- outline (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due
- rough works cited page (1 page, 1 pt.)
- rough draft (5 pages, 2 pts.) due
- meet with a tutor or me by
- final draft (5+ pages, 15 pts.) due

All of these must be typed using MLA format (except for the Wignall Worksheet).

Topic

In the last few decades, old notions of gender roles have become modernized, and gender equality is the default mode. However, sexism still exists, and women are “grappling with issues around representation, equality and autonomy” (Rehm). These Creatures, the current exhibition in the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, is comprised of artworks that examine or challenge ideas around womanhood, femininity, objectification, and equality.

The individual artworks, the exhibition as a whole, and the exhibition guide together form a collective manifesto of protest and liberation. The curator writes, “We creatures with teeth that tear flesh, mouths that make sounds, must remain defiant against those who would try to tame and contain us” (Rehm).

As you view the exhibition and write this essay, try to answer these fundamental questions:

- How do the artworks portray femininity, womanhood, gender, and equality in similar or different ways?
- How do the artworks make you question (or confirm) your previous ideas about gender equality?

For this essay, choose two artworks in the exhibition, These Creatures, and write a comparative analysis of those artworks (5+ pages, 6+ paragraphs).

Be sure to describe the physical properties of each work in detail (colors, shapes, materials, style, media, format, etc.) and analyze the purpose, message, social commentary, or effect on the viewer.

Answering these questions will help you to analyze the art:

- What do you see? What do you feel? What do you think? What questions do you ask?
- What is the possible message of each artwork?
- What questions do the artists raise or attempt to answer?
- Is the argument of each artwork implicit or explicit?
- How does the artwork relate to the exhibition title, These Creatures?

Audience & Purpose

Imagine that your reader has visited the exhibition, These Creatures, in the Wignall Museum but may not understand the artwork to the same extent that you do or might not agree with your perspective. The purpose of your essay is to persuade your reader that your perspective is valid.

Reading Requirement

- Wignall Museum exhibition guide for These Creatures
- various articles online (English 1B – Essay 2)
Research Requirement

You must use these five sources in your essay and list them on the works cited page:

- two artworks in the museum
- Wignall Museum exhibition guide
- two articles from research

Use the library’s electronic databases to find articles (i.e., Academic Search Complete, JSTOR, etc.). You may also use credible, academic internet websites (including the articles posted to my website).

Structure & Content Checklist

___ Write a creative, informative title for your essay; write an interesting, inventive hook as well.
___ Your introduction should identify the two artworks that your essay focuses on.
___ The thesis must preview your essay in detail (two or three sentences) and should make some kind of judgment.
___ Use clear topic sentences and transitions to provide a structure for your essay.

___ Organize your essay in either point by point or alternating subject by subject format.

___ Incorporate details and analysis of the artworks in every supporting paragraph.
___ Incorporate one or two research quotations in every supporting paragraph.
___ Remember to ICE: introduce, cite, and explain each quotation, example, or paraphrase.
___ It is acceptable to use first-person (“I,” “my”). You may also include your own thoughts about gender, etc.
___ Write a strong conclusion that summarizes and wraps up the entire essay.
___ Use present-tense verbs to write about art and other texts.
___ Edit and proofread your sentences so that they are as clear and correct as possible.
___ Include a properly formatted works cited page.
___ Format your paper properly: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font such as Times New Roman.

Do not plagiarize (copy, borrow, steal, or buy someone else’s writing); if you do, you will receive zero points for this assignment and possibly fail the course.

Process — You must complete and submit all of the following with the final draft:

___ final draft & works cited page
___ printouts of research article(s) used in the essay [very important]
___ tutoring receipt or my comments**
___ rough draft(s)
___ peer review form
___ outline
___ rough works cited page
___ research notes
___ proposal & Wignall worksheet

** If you are unable to see a tutor for this essay, you may visit my advice hours.

• Bring your assignment sheet, notes, draft, etc. with you when you see a tutor at the Language Success Center.
• Please feel free to visit my advice hours (MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & TTh 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) or email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.