

Comparative Study

Martin Villalpando



Introduction

This comparative study focuses on the ideas that two artists have made to define the ideas of urban culture that we know today. Each of these two artists have come from two different time periods. One artist is from the pop art movement in the 60s while the other artist is a local artist who loves to create the idea of urban culture. The two artists that are included in this comparative study includes Andy Warhol who was one of my inspiration from my art piece *Many Sides*, and Jamal Currie who is a local artist in the city. With both of these artists, I will be comparing, and contrasting how each of these artists share the idea of how they think, and how they define the idea of urban culture with each of their mediums in their pieces, as well as their cultural significance, functions, and formal qualities that are expressed between the two artists.

Evaluation of Cultural Significance of Jamal Currie

Jamal Currie is a local artist from Wisconsin who is also an Associate Professor at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. His work mainly focuses on photography and stills, as well as videos and assemblage. His work has been in many galleries, and he even has his own exhibit. One of his exhibits was called "Filtered" at the Station Gallery at Lock Haven, PA in 2015.



Jamal Currie



Floating Headstone
By Jamal Currie
Video Still (2005)

His work consists of the idea of urban culture, this idea can be seen throughout many of his art pieces. When he works on his piece, he mainly focuses on the angle, and how much he can put into the picture. He does this because he wants to capture every single thing he wants in the image in order to help display the overall tone and give off the meaning of living and distress of urban culture. His focus allows him to develop this reputation of being known as the urban artist of the city.

Interpretation of Function and Purpose of Jamal Currie

Annotation of Stuck In The Middle With You by Jamal Currie

The pink line represents the dividing point signifying two different spaces. He does this to develop a difference of two sides merging into one.

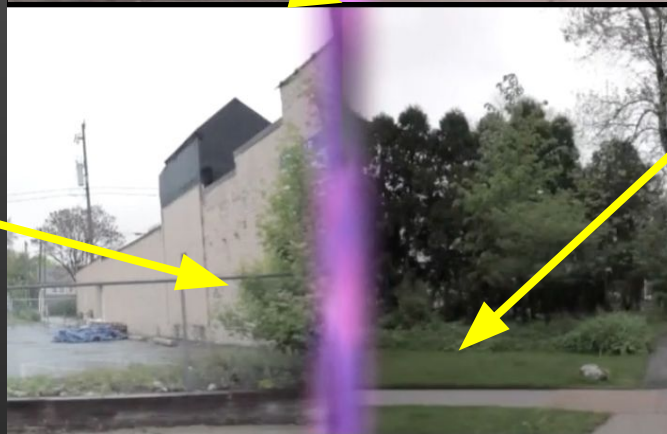
The objects between these two spaces have an overall mood of emptiness from the dull contrast in the piece which is shown through the use of the palettes where the two sides are dull, but are separated by a vivid hue.



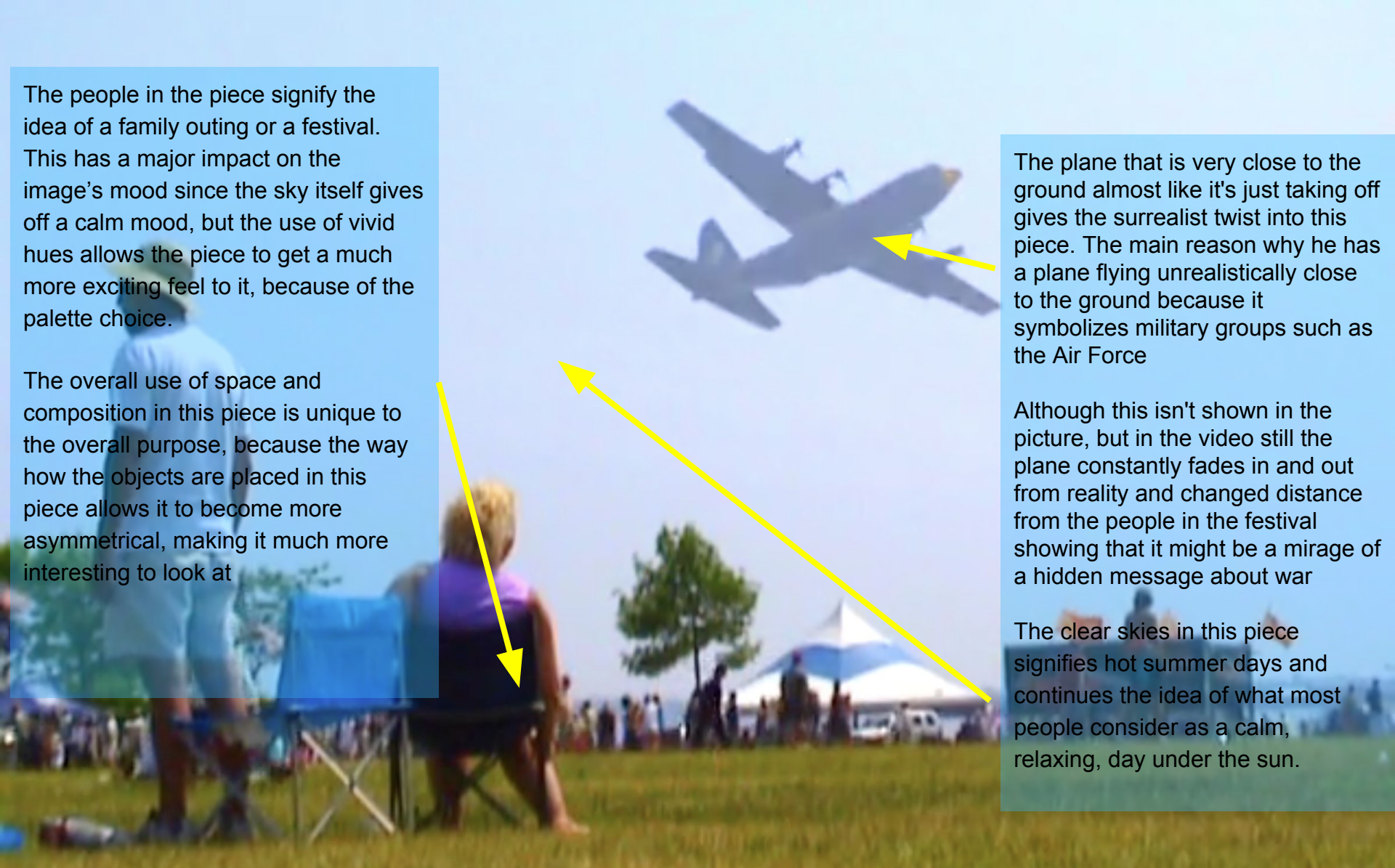
The lack of people can bring the piece to the idea of abandoned places where no one else lives.

The overall atmosphere of this piece and the title have a major emphasis to the piece which is the meaning of living in wealth or poverty.

The rain in this piece allows it to further the idea of emptiness, as well as loneliness, based off the palette that he has chosen.



Stuck in the Middle with You
by Jamal Currie
Video Still (2015)



The people in the piece signify the idea of a family outing or a festival. This has a major impact on the image's mood since the sky itself gives off a calm mood, but the use of vivid hues allows the piece to get a much more exciting feel to it, because of the palette choice.

The overall use of space and composition in this piece is unique to the overall purpose, because the way how the objects are placed in this piece allows it to become more asymmetrical, making it much more interesting to look at

The plane that is very close to the ground almost like it's just taking off gives the surrealist twist into this piece. The main reason why he has a plane flying unrealistically close to the ground because it symbolizes military groups such as the Air Force

Although this isn't shown in the picture, but in the video still the plane constantly fades in and out from reality and changed distance from the people in the festival showing that it might be a mirage of a hidden message about war

The clear skies in this piece signifies hot summer days and continues the idea of what most people consider as a calm, relaxing, day under the sun.

Interpretation of Function and Purpose Jamal Currie

Annotation of A Lesser Peace by Jamal Currie

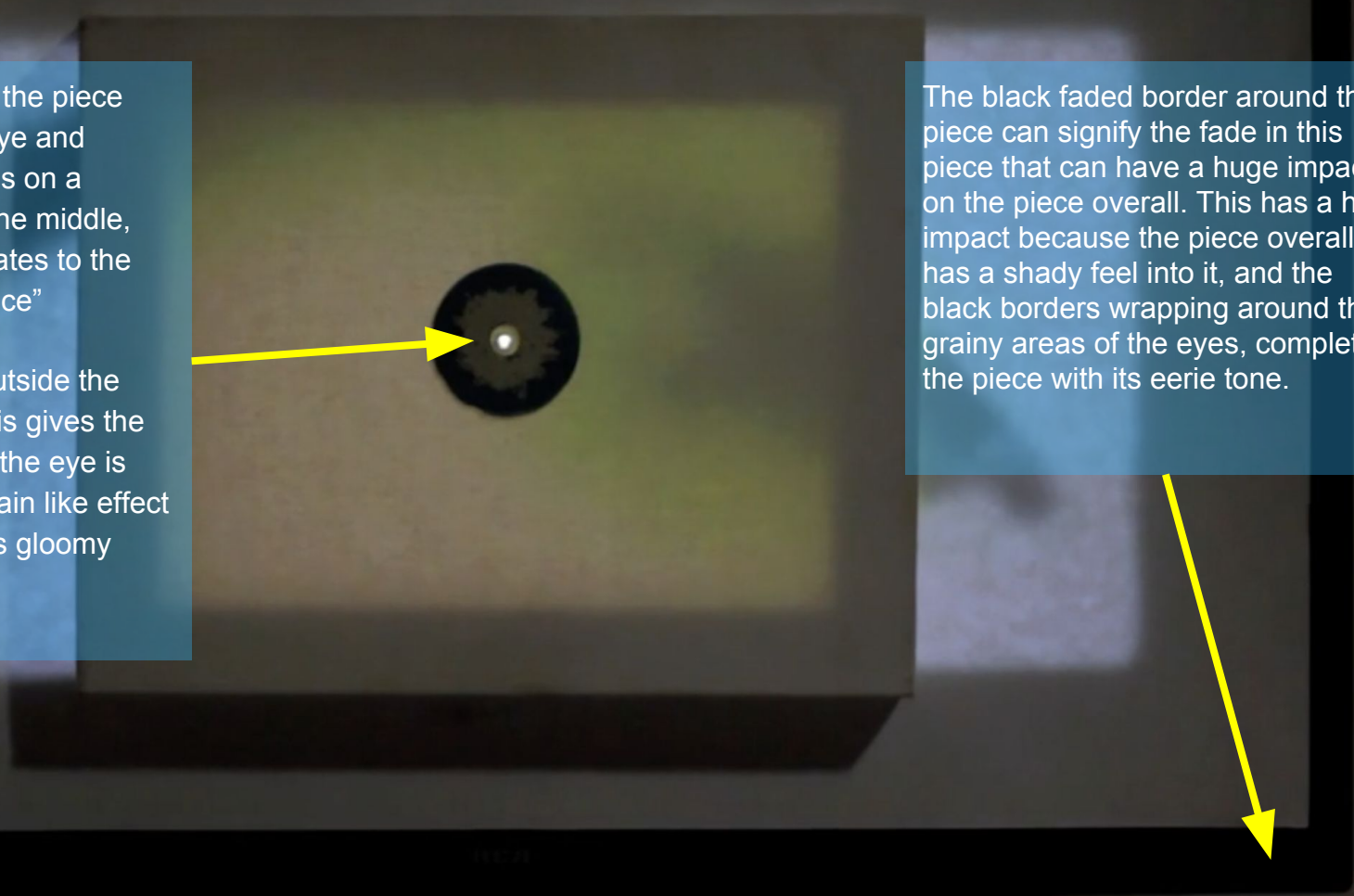
Interpretation of Function and Purpose of Jamal Currie

Annotation of Eyetrace by Jamal Currie

The middle black circle in the piece signifies the pupil of the eye and almost looks similar to lens on a camera. The white dot in the middle, signifies a trace which relates to the name of the piece "Eyetrace"

The overall eye is seen outside the black, transparent box. This gives the piece a small area where the eye is not exposed and has a grain like effect that adds up to the piece's gloomy mood

The black faded border around the piece can signify the fade in this piece that can have a huge impact on the piece overall. This has a huge impact because the piece overall has a shady feel into it, and the black borders wrapping around the grainy areas of the eyes, completes the piece with its eerie tone.



Analysis of Formal Qualities of Jamal Currie

Currie's use of video effects is what makes his piece stand out from each other with a variety of different meanings.

The way how Jamal Currie executes his ideas is what really make him stick out compared to other artists in the city. The positions he records these videos and the effect it has on the viewer as a whole is what makes him a urban artist. He uses many styles of meaning to his pieces about life as an urban artist that includes, wealth and poverty, past memories, and finding your purpose. to demonstrate the ideas he wants to share to the person or any audience in general.

In **Stuck In The Middle With You** he used a pink line to split two different spaces, in **Lesser Peace** he used a fighter plane taking off at a place that seems like a peaceful summer festival which signifies an idea of war. Lastly, **Eyetrace** signifies the idea of looking through a camera lens at first glance. These factors are the factors that builds up to what Currie has in mind when he is making his piece which are the problems we face in urban culture such as poverty, memories, and finding a purpose in life.



Lesser Peace
by Jamal Currie (2005)



Eyetrace
by Jamal Currie (2013)

Stuck in the Middle with You
By Jamal Currie (2015)



Evaluation of Cultural Significance of Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol is an iconic pop artist, but during the 50s/ 60s during the pop art era/post-modernism era at the time. Andy Warhol's work was displayed as an idea of design for his job as a graphic designer who are a group of people who create logos, and advertise for other companies.

The method that Warhol had used was a method of having templates in order to duplicate the designs he wanted to create, then he began doing this creating repetition and bright colors throughout his piece which has made him famous for his retro iconic pop/urban culture that we know of today.



Andy Warhol

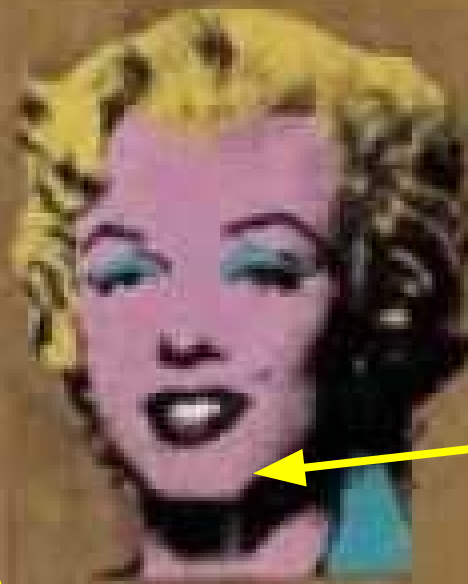
Marilyn Monroe
by Andy Warhol
Pop Art Print Painting
(1960)

Interpretation of Function and Purpose of Andy Warhol

Annotation of Gold Marilyn Monroe by Andy Warhol

Designed to be easily replicated, and recreated as many times as Andy Warhol wanted.

The golden background that is shown in the piece gives off a rustic feel and sticks out when compared allow the main print to pop out much more which is the main purpose of pop art, and it's vivid hues.



Famous actress Marilyn Monroe is seen in this piece, because she was famous at the time and was considered an iconic figure when it came to beauty and film during her life.

Overall this piece is seen as a simple template, but this template was the main tool that Andy Warhol used to get the design of the many different colored Marylins in his other pieces. Since Marilyn was a famous person, Warhol wanted to capture that beauty and repeat it as much as possible, which has soon become an obsession in Warhol's work because of her significance in her acting career as an actress

Interpretation of Function and Purpose of Andy Warhol

Annotation of Campbell Soup Cans by Andy Warhol

Overall, the use of stencils created the graph like design of the image, thus creating repetition

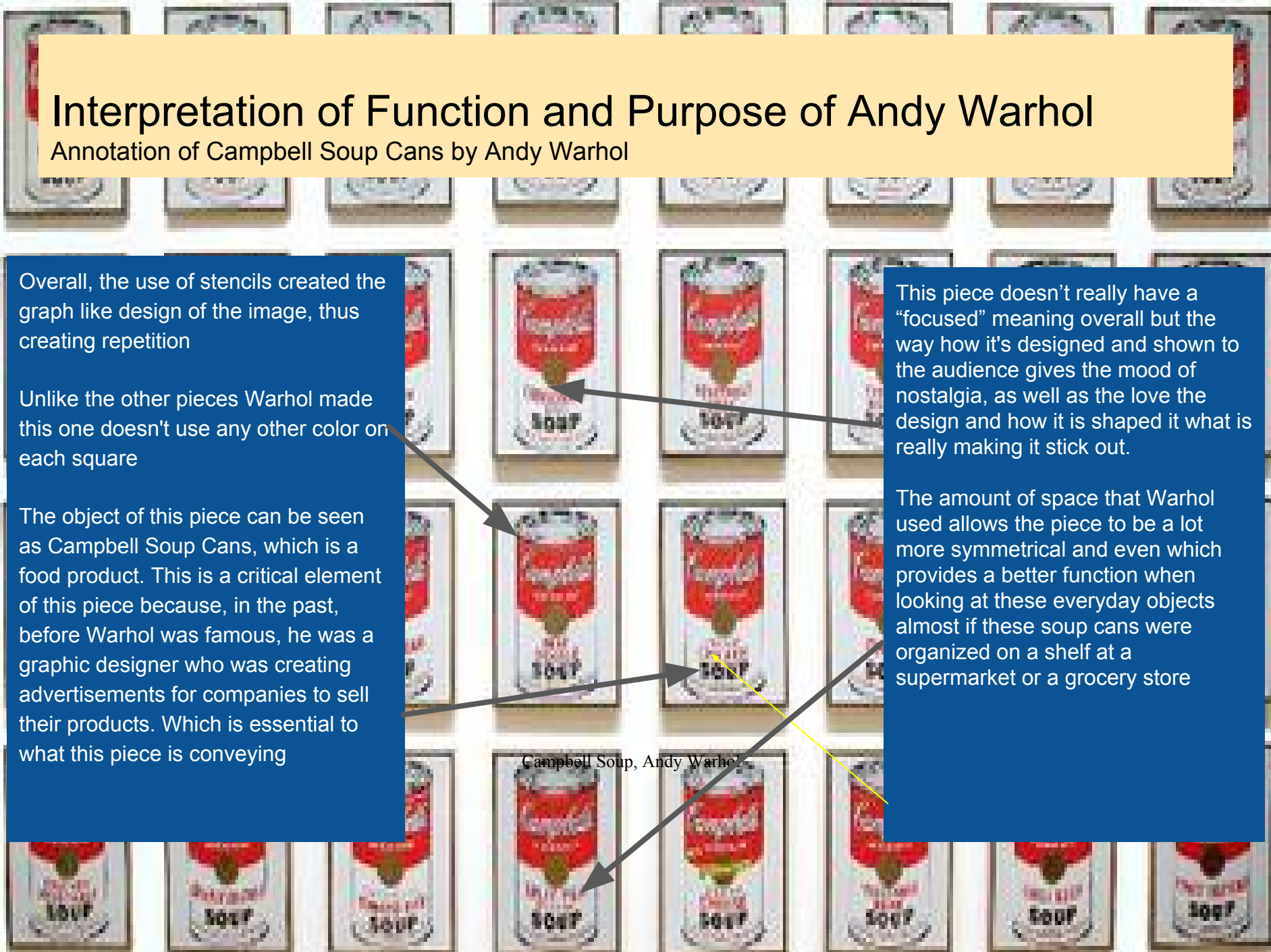
Unlike the other pieces Warhol made this one doesn't use any other color on each square

The object of this piece can be seen as Campbell Soup Cans, which is a food product. This is a critical element of this piece because, in the past, before Warhol was famous, he was a graphic designer who was creating advertisements for companies to sell their products. Which is essential to what this piece is conveying

This piece doesn't really have a "focused" meaning overall but the way how it's designed and shown to the audience gives the mood of nostalgia, as well as the love the design and how it is shaped it what is really making it stick out.

The amount of space that Warhol used allows the piece to be a lot more symmetrical and even which provides a better function when looking at these everyday objects almost if these soup cans were organized on a shelf at a supermarket or a grocery store

Campbell Soup, Andy Warhol

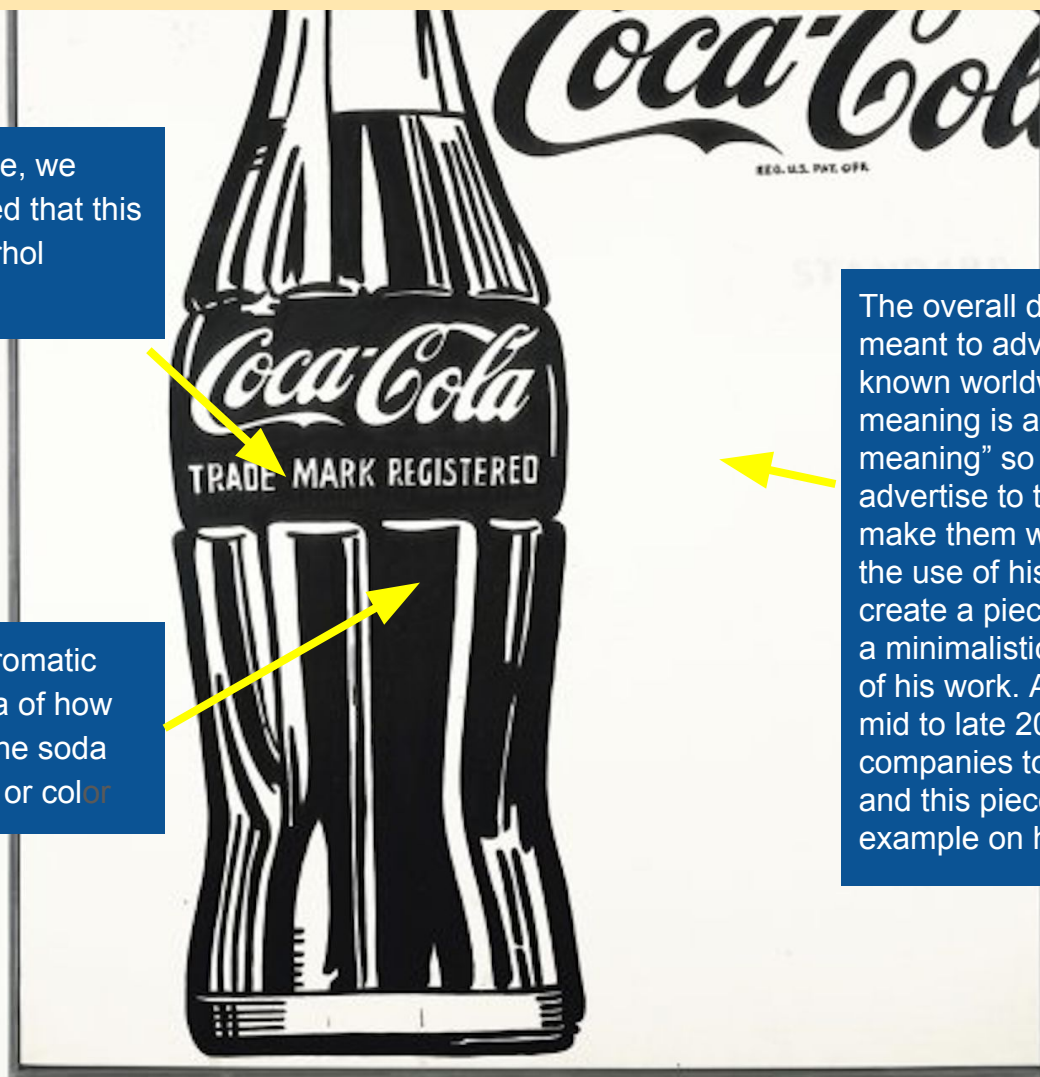


Interpretation of Function and Purpose of Andy Warhol

Annotation of Coca-Cola #3 by Andy Warhol

Based off the name of the title, we know that it can be interpreted that this is the third template that Warhol created

The use of monochromatic colors gives the idea of how Warhol advertised the soda without the any hue or color



The overall design of this piece was meant to advertise the soda that is known worldwide as Coca Cola. The meaning is also not a "focused meaning" so the overall idea was to advertise to the consumer in order to make them willing to buy one. Through the use of his prints, he managed to create a piece that was expressed with a minimalistic approach to the concept of his work. As a graphic designer in his mid to late 20s, he worked for many companies to advertise their products and this piece was another prime example on how he advertised it.

Analysis of Formal Qualities of Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol uses templates throughout most of his pieces

The way Andy Warhol emphasizes the ideas in this piece is what makes his pieces original. From first glance what we can see is just simplistic prints of common everyday objects or well known, but he did not use repetition on these prints because “it looks cool”, he did it in order to symbolize quantity of the piece and allow the piece to feel complete with other copies surrounding the original print. The way he made these templates and was able to replicate it was how he made such high quality pieces throughout his lifetime. In one of his famous pieces of Marilyn Monroe, he has copied that image again and again with different colors/this is what really made him famous. This idea of pop art is what made his work give off a retro classic feel.



Golden Monroe



Coca-Cola #3



Campbell Soup Cans

Comparing & Contrasting Artistic Styles

CURRIE

Currie focuses more on urban culture as a whole, as well as focus more on the problems we face such as poverty, memories/war, and finding a purpose

Currie's pieces consists on the use of digital video editing and stills as his main mediums



BOTH

They both defy a meaning on what they see in culture as a whole. Although both of them have come two different art movements and mediums, both of these artists express similar meanings on what they consider as culture. The way how they executed these ideas on culture is as well as what it has meant to them. Overall Currie and Warhol's work have gave us a perspective on how postmodernism/pop art is expressed through the problems we face today and how we see urban culture.

WARHOL

Warhol focuses on more on pop culture as a whole, which has created a retro, and nostalgic feel to the piece as well as reflect upon his past where he was once a graphic designer creating advertisements

Warhol's work consists of the use templates and ink prints as his main mediums to his pieces



Comparing & Contrasting Use of Emotion

CURRIE

Currie's Use of Emotion has been a lot more towards negative vibes which is caused from the darker, less vivid hues when compared to Warhol's bright and vivid palette choice which is the main point that Currie is conveying to his pieces in order to share these emotions to the viewer.

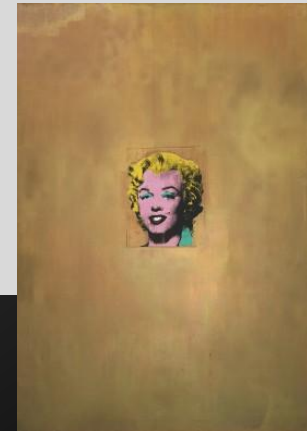


BOTH

They both want to have an idea of how they wanted design the piece. What I mean by this that these artists are consistent with what they wanted to do with their pieces. Warhol's work is often associated with Pop Art and gives off retro, nostalgic feelings to the viewer from his choice of palettes. While Currie's work is much more consistent of stills, and video editing, that give the viewer a much more eerie, lone wolf type of feelings to the viewer.

WARHOL

Warhol's Use of Emotion has been a lot more towards nostalgic purposes, and advertising purposes. As for advertising purposes his skills in advertising this such as coca-cola and campbell soup allows the viewer to see it as if it was actually an advertisement making the viewer feel hungry or thirsty, but at the same time allow the viewer to seek the repetition.



Comparing and Contrasting Application to the Medium

CURRIE

Currie takes advantage of the views around him and uses these views to discover the culture. The medium of videography allows the viewer to interact with the pieces and created the concept that there is no such thing as a simplistic meaning. The simple things form a hidden meaning along with the title and background noises that form the establishment of mood into his pieces.



BOTH

They both focus on making pieces that are appealing to the viewer through the use of vivid hues, solid textures, and urban meaning. What I mean by that is that they have a deep focus on how society is shaped around them and use these landscapes or the area around them to develop a medium that can coexist and interact with urban culture in a whole new shape and form.

WARHOL

Warhol takes advantage of the Pop culture art style to develop the structure within the piece, and the structure of the piece forms the shape of an object and adds vivid hues to help develop that repetition of everyday things to a part of what american life is like.



Formal Introduction to Own Works

The piece that is on the right side of this slide is one of my pieces that was heavily inspired by Andy Warhol's pop art called *Many Sides* in this piece I wanted to recreate the works of Warhol's template like style in a painting. This was also used by simplistic colors since Warhol didn't go heavy on the different shades of a certain hue, but instead he has went with the design of having solid colors that is well shown throughout this piece as a whole.

This piece is a personal favorite of mine and is what also help me develop a mindset when it comes to urban culture.



Many Sides

by Martin Villalpando

Acrylic on Canvas

December 9th(2016)

'Many Sides is a Self Portrait that determines the many views of my entire personality, some people say that color reflects upon mood and feelings. The overall work in this piece is based off a retro feel of Andy Warhol's Pop Art that uses bright and vivid colors to help show many moods and tones.'

The World of Tomorrow

By Martin Villalpando

Acrylic on Canvas

October 2nd (2017)



Formal Introduction to Own Works

What I do to utilize Warhol's work is through the patterns and repetitions that Warhol used to express himself. Warhol repeats the patterns of his work because he uses it to capture the idea of American culture based off common things that we see everyday. In my piece Many Sides how I managed to utilize my pieces was through his meaning. Although by some perspectives some might say I'm not someone you see everyday. This is when the differences start rolling in through the facts of what an American looks like. As seen in Many Sides the average American is portrayed as a white man with a shaved face, high paying job and a family man living in the American Dream. Many Sides is what has allowed these ideas to come distorted in a whole new form.

Many Sides is a Self Portrait that determines the many views of my entire personality, some people say that color reflects upon mood and feelings. The overall work in this piece is based off a retro feel of Andy Warhol's Pop Art that uses bright and vivid colors to help show many moods and tones.

Many Sides

by Martin Villalpando

Acrylic on Canvas

December 9th(2016)



Formal Introduction to Own Works

What I have done to utilize the work of Currie was expanded on the idea of Urban Culture and gave it a whole new perspective upon the views of negativity and world problems that we face today that could lead to worse situations in the near future. These problems have included Urban decay, pollution, climate change/global warming, and total nuclear war that can lead to the very end of the human race.



The World of Tomorrow is a piece that was heavily inspired by the problems that we have now that pay impact us in the future. This includes War, Nuclear Bombs, Global Warming/Climate change and loss of human existence. I had also added up some other things in this piece that was executed by the works of Salvador Dali's Persistence of Memory which has included a big wide empty space around it which creates some sort of depth effect.

The World of Tomorrow

by Martin Villalpando

Acrylic on Canvas

October 2nd(2017)

Connection to Work - Jamal Currie

Jamal work has mainly consist of the idea on how urban culture has lead to negative impacts as well which can lead to poverty and pollution. Jamal took these ideas and placed them upon the facts of how these things affect the environment and lead on to the rest of the world. My work has a similar approach upon these problems and one of these had to include the fact that if we dont fix the problems we face today, then they can lead up to bigger problems later on.



How my work is different from the works of Jamal Currie work is the fact that I focus on the problems in the near future like Global Warming and Nuclear war as the two main factors that could possibly impact into a nearly doomed future while Jamal faces mainly the problems of today can be reversible if we act now to prevent the worse from coming later.



Reflection of Connection to Own Art - Andy Warhol &

Overall I have felt that throughout my entire life there has always been something that was so interesting on how art makes a person feel different emotions with just perspective. At first I did not consider myself as a good artist when I compared myself to others. All I knew that I was good at drawing and that was it. After studying with 4 years into IB Art, I have found out who I truly am. I learned so many things about myself that I thought I would never do, everywhere I go now I know there are people around me who are also interested in the same perspectives on who I am as a person and have been shown a completely new perspective on how things are seen throughout the world.

