

Bridge Project II: CONTEXT & INVESTIGATION

EXPLORATION OF IDEAS & QUESTIONS

IDEAS & QUESTIONS - OVERVIEW

This project focused on what interests us intellectually, creatively, emotionally, and spiritually within the area of visual culture that we ourselves are studying. The purpose of this assignment was to help us generate ideas and hone in on a topic that we could further develop for a future studio project.

As this was the deep thinking portion of the bridge projects, we mostly focused on researching and building an archive surrounding the topic or question that we chose. Later, we developed our archives into a mind map, visualizing our ideas and intentions, being able to make connections by spatially mapping our observations, research, and inspiration.

IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Step 1: Exploration & Lists

PERSONAL

1. How do memories shape our experiences?
2. Are memories worth holding on to?
3. How do you move past nostalgia?
4. Is nostalgia harmful? Does it block growth?
5. How does art (music, imagery, food) inform memories?
6. How do you move on from limiting-memories?
7. How do you detach yourself?
8. How do we get rid of expectations?
9. Why is moving on so hard?
10. Why is aesthetic stationary attractive?

SOCIAL/POLITICAL

1. Why are we expected to side with ideologies?
2. How does religion work in politics in foreign countries?
3. How does religion in the state succeed in religious countries?
4. Should countries be religious?
5. Are immigration policies immoral or realistic?
6. How do political films affect change?
7. Do political films inspire education?
8. Have publicity images made us immune to crises?
9. Do explicit films harm our reactions to real world problems?
10. Is freedom of speech harmful or beneficial?

ENVIRONMENT

1. Do we have as much control over the climate as we think we do?
2. Are we going through a natural cycle or are these changes anthropogenic?
3. How does greed overpower morality within large industries?
4. Psychologically, how can people disregard the environment we live in?
5. What dictates a home?
6. Is a physical home simply an attachment to material things?
7. How do you move on from a dwelling filled with memories?
8. Is home where the heart is?
9. Without film, what would our perception of space be like?
10. How does space fill the multitudes of both science and religion?

TECHNOLOGY

1. How does social media affect communication?
2. Does social media damage our relationship skills?
3. Will AI make artists suffer?
4. Is AI ethical for creative work?
5. Does social media make us unapproachable?
6. Is it possible to be authentic online?
7. Isn't all technology created subjectively?
8. Is technology made for the greater good?
9. Does technological communication and "texting tone" cause us to overthink our relationships?
10. Does technology persuade people to talk to more people?

IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Step 1: Exploration & Lists

SPIRITUAL/PHILOSOPHICAL

1. Is moksha an ultimate goal?
2. Is desire necessary in life?
3. Is attachment at all beneficial to life?
4. Should we pursue our desires or our responsibilities?
5. Who dictates what our responsibilities are?
6. Is there any objectivity in the world?
7. Are coincidences related to fate?
8. Does the belief in fate or religion increase our overall positivity?
9. Are responsibilities subjective, and do we have a responsibility to anyone but ourselves?
10. Are our desires our responsibilities to attain?

CREATIVE MENTOR

1. In what multitudes can artists inspire other artists?
2. Is there such a thing as an original art style?
3. Is literal art better than abstract or expressive art?
4. Is there such a thing as objective art?
5. Is a still life ever objective?
6. Is there such a thing as art style plagiarism?
7. How do you develop your own artistic style?
8. Is art informed by your experiences or your knowledge?
9. What's the difference between AI, creating art from existing art, and artists, creating art based on existing styles?
10. Who decided what good art looks like?

IDEAS I'M INTERESTED IN

1. Are memories worth holding on to?
2. How do you move past nostalgia?
3. How do you detach yourself?
4. How do you move on from a dwelling filled with memories?
5. Is desire necessary in life?
6. Is attachment at all beneficial to life?
7. Are coincidences related to fate?
8. Is a still life ever objective?

STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

I am interested in exploring if attachments simply reflect nostalgia, if they also have benefits such as growth and reflection, or if they are harmful blockages.

IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Research & Archive Documentation

IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Research Documentation

Bryant, Richard A. and Fiona Maccallum. "A Cognitive Attachment Model of prolonged grief: Integrating attachments, memory, and identity." *Clinical psychology review* 6, vol. 33 (2013): 713-727.

- This article is focused on a very scientific approach to processing grief and the various ways that it can affect people
- Talks about attachment styles and why, scientifically, holding on to such memories can be detrimental to the person
- It deals with avoidance, which I can directly relate to creating art surrounding traumatic memories, and also touches on relationship dependence (via material and internal bonds) and what that does to the person's healing process.

Feldman, Ruth. "The Neurobiology of Human Attachments." *Trends in cognitive sciences* 2, vol. 21 (2017): 80-99.

- General depictions of attachment and the subsequent inquiries it raises
- Immediate effects that bonds can have, for example, promoting health and happiness, rather than the effects of a prolonged attachment

Rogers, David J. "Non-Attachment: The Solution to an Artist's or Writer's Problem." Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://davidjrogersftw.com/2015/03/12/non-attachment-the-solution-to-an-artists-or-writers-problem/>

- This article talks about attachment and how it can hold people, specifically artists, back from their full potential
- It elaborates on how concerning yourself with a very specific goal often can mislead you in performing it, as you should be focused on the skills necessary to complete the overall task
- Rather than wanting to make a work perfectly capture the essence of the commission, making sure that you put in your best effort and skill will often lead you to perfection regardless

PARAGRAPH OF INTEREST

Through my research surrounding the pros and cons of attachment, I've become more interested in how our psychology plays a role in our art making process, and even if we can use these processes to inform our psychology. This reverse action is compelling because as artists, it's clear that our memories and attachments inform our work. Experience is represented through our art. However, as my research educated me, attachments aren't always beneficial, and they are more often than not, blockages in our growth. Since artists pull from memories and experiences, I wonder if we can use our skills to remove attachments from our lives rather than reliving them over and over again.

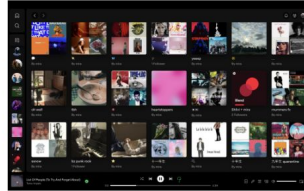
IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Archive Process Documentation

→ Art

◆ Music

- Fiona Apple
 - Weaving narratives and memories
- Generally 2010s music for GenZ
- Taylor Swift
 - Songs reflecting past relationships and avoidances
 - “The Eras Tour” literally pulling on each era of her life
 - ◆ Nostalgic to those who grew up listening to the albums, but is it harmful for her to keep reliving the moments that made her write those songs?
- Relating songs to specific time periods in your life
 - Creating (periodical) playlists (I’ve made 9 playlists in 8 months of school relating to different moments and feelings)



◆ Fine art?

→ Science

◆ Attachment theory

- Central roles of caregivers
- The necessary attachment that developing children need vs what's good for us in the long run

→ Religion

◆ Moksha

- No attachments to anything

IDEAS & QUESTIONS

Mind Map

Do ATTACHMENTS reflect nostalgia, harmless, or are they harmful BLOCKAGES?

MUSIC

→ Playlist creation:

My examples are shown to the right. Periodical playlists representing specific instances in time, or ERAS of our lives. Consisting of music that we listened to or music that made us reminisce about that moment in time. Maybe even specific feelings had during that time.

SEP-OCT 23
→ soft, jazz, romantic

OCT-NOV 23
→ reflective, nostalgic, about a person from the past

JAN-FEB 24
→ hard rock
→ guitar symbolizing 1 person from the past

DEC-JAN 24
→ feelings

SEP-DEC 23
→ Latin music
→ serenading quality about/ reminiscent of 1 person

DEC 23
→ sad and nostalgic
→ childhood songs

→ Taylor Swift's ERAS TOUR

Attachments to the person we once were? Pulling from 10 albums across 16 years. Each represent and specifically express the relationships, events, and/or feelings that she had been through. The ERAS TOUR makes her recall the memories that induced her to write these songs.

MAY-AUG 23
→ people

JUN-JUL 23
→ 2010s
→ throwbacks, subs. nostalgic

JUL-AUG 23
→ nostalgic, fun, specifically reminiscent of AVA 23 & a memory

→ Emotive experiences of songs in general

→ rainy day songs

→ sad songs

→ Disney songs

The Limbic System processes our emotions and controls our memory. It also gets triggered when we perceive music. Memories & art (music) are connected in our brains! Emotional responses vary.

SCIENCE

ATTACHMENT THEORY

Early caregiver relationships are the cause of developmental foundations. This reflects the bonds between humans, rather than a non-emotive form of attachment, such as a memory or case of nostalgia.

However, humans and relationship can also be cases of blockages and/or nostalgia. Attachment to certain figures in our lives can be beneficial or not.

IDEAS & QUESTIONS - REFLECTION

This exploration has allowed me to entertain my curiosities as they relate to art as well as outside of my field of study. It has also enabled me to come to a census as to what my current ideas all revolve around, pushing me to further research externally and inquire within myself about the topic, as it could inspire my future work.

The mind map specifically helped me be creative in a more freeing and brainstorming manner rather than a finished, concise piece of work which requires a firm and constrictive mindset. It was also enjoyable to develop an amount of research and find different examples that all connected to the ideas I was interested in. It was overall an inspiring exploration for my future work and I'm excited to utilize it in my body of work.