Exploring Space, Making Form: Three Artists at the ZMA

Resources for Artistic Development

Questions for Further Reflection

1. How does travel factor into the work of Ruth Zuckerman and Zipporah Camille Thompson?
2. Which of Ruth Zuckerman’s sculptures were most interesting to you? What drew you to that work?
3. How does Krista Clark’s exploration of “gestures” show up in her installation?
4. Clark’s installation “Annotations of Sheltered” are visual notes on her ideas of what sheltered means. Anyone who draws is making visual notes. To what extent does visual note-taking help you make your art?
5. What aspects of Zipporah Camille Thompson’s artwork in Looming Chaos would you consider ordered?
6. How is order wedded with chaos in Thompson’s work?

Carve a Sculpture

It is not hard to test your hand at carving a sculpture. A great way to try it out is with a bar of soap and a knife. Check out these fun links to get started. Always cut away from fingers!

• The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a fun tutorial for a starter soap carving project.
• The mistress of soap carving on YouTube is mizutama.soap. You can get lots of great tips from watching her tutorials.

Architectural Gestures

Clark speaks about her history with drawing and eventually getting to a place where she explores space through architectural gestures with materials typically used in construction. One way to gain a deeper understanding of architecture is to study it with drawing. Try these ideas of spaces to explore with a sketch.

• Draw a skyline
• Draw a piece of outside furniture
• Draw a monument
• Draw an old building
• Draw a modern building
• Draw a building at night
• Draw a building under construction
• Draw a town square
• Draw an alley
• Draw an architectural detail

Make a Vision Board

There are lots of pros and cons on the web about using vision boards for motivation. As far as making art goes, that’s not exactly it! Thompson uses vision boards as guides to help determine what she wants visually. It is simply a collaged sketch to work out a desired look. Try it out!

1. Gather the following materials: a large piece of paper or posterboard to use as a background, scissors, glue, writing and drawing utensils, and a box or folder to store your images.
2. On a separate sheet of paper make a list of things you think you would like to include in a new piece of art.
3. Find images of the things on your list: print from the internet, cut out of magazines, take photographs, or collect anything you can adhere to the paper or posterboard. You can even “mine” your sketchbooks for possibilities. Store your collected images in your box or folder.
4. Next, arrange the images and items on the background until you find a composition you like. When you are ready, glue everything into place.
5. Using your drawing or writing utensils, jot notes or draw designs to develop the piece further.

Another way to work on a vision board this. Rather than make a list and look for items that match, you can add items over time as you come across things in your day to day life that you think would make good additions. The board doesn’t have to be done in a day, it can be completed over any time period that works for you.

Whenever you feel you have enough of a “vision” to start your artwork, begin!

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