

May, 2004

This is a written final exam assigned by a WSU professor; I found and compiled them after googling myself. Apparently about 8 students chose the RELICS installation to write about. I fixed a bunch of spelling and grammar errors, and left a few funny ones. These things are great to read!

Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2001 20:30:47 -0500  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: elizabeth ferszt

**Subject: WSU ENGL 1020-033/040 FINAL EXAM:**

**1) Choose one (1) piece from the "Artists take on Detroit" show at the DIA: a) summarize the piece: this includes a basic description of the piece, including title, medium, size, date, artist b) explicate as graphical text: what does it mean? is this a representational text or an abstract text? interpret any symbolism; use sacred/profane themes here c) analyze the text as if it were a literary text: what is its narration/story? are there any characters/salient features? what style and tone are used? FORMAT: each response must be at least 150 wds.**

Date: Fri, 14 Dec 2001 12:57:06 EST  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: Crystal Hall  
Subject: Final Exam December 14,2001 "Artists take on Detroit"

**'Relics' meaning ancient /obsolete (gone) by Scott Hocking**

Scott Hocking was born and raised in Redford townships in Michigan. He is currently living and working in Hamtramck, Michigan. This piece of art gives an example of how Detroit has a continuing cycle of rebirth, creation and decay. The objects used were taken from old abandoned buildings; each object had a weathered, decaying or rust effect to it. The text was very sacred; it represented the different stages Detroit has gone through. It was not related to the hardships such as increasing deaths, or it did not give an effect of something bad, it showed how toys for children have changed, pop cans, street signs etc. Each box represented a stage in life, which commanded the viewer's attention. Within these relics were characters which are said to be the Detroit natives. Basically this work of art captured the meaning of life, how things come and go, and as a people we still live through them.

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 04:28:47 +0000  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: KELLY SCOTT

(Final Draft – I guess) For my Arts of Detroit project I chose the "Relics" room. The room was put together by Scott Hocking born in Redford Township, MI in 1975. Inside the room Hocking's has boxes representing something old and different in each one. There was a platform you could stand on where the artist wanted you to feel what he was trying to demonstrate like one portion being burnt bricks, concrete, carpet, or an old wooden floor with children's drawings. In the representation of old collectables you can really touch the showcase and feel the age of the materials, and that is exactly what the artist seemed to be proposing. One wall was a full representation of things that look like they were collected from a sunken ship. The room tells a story of the history of many peoples belonging's and makes you value your surroundings. It's a representational text that shows a more sacred meaning for all things.

(1<sup>st</sup> Draft) For my Arts of Detroit project I chose the "Relics" room. The room was put together by Scott Hocking born in Redford, MI. It was constructed in 1975. Inside the room he has boxes, each representing something old and different. There was a platform you could stand on where the artist wanted you to feel what he was trying to demonstrate like one portion being burnt bricks, concrete, carpet, or an old wooden floor with children's drawings. Like the artist seemingly intended, you could touch the old items and feel the individual age of the material. The room tells a story of the history of many peoples belonging's and treasure's and makes you value your surrounding's. It's a representational text that shows a more sacred meaning for all things.

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 10:08:45 -0500  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: Waleed Jammal  
Subject: Final Exam Art in Detroit

The piece of art which I chose from the Detroit Institute of Art, for the "Artists take on Detroit" was "Relics" by Scott Hocking and Clinton Snider. When looking at Hocking and Clinton's work one would just see old car parts, street signs, and broken glass. But to someone from Detroit or the Detroit area doesn't see the trash but the "artifacts" of a great city. One could say that Detroit reminds people of a phoenix (a bird which is re-born from the ashes), a city which ever so often re-comes alive using its great past and rich resources. That's what I believe Hocking and Clinton were trying to say. "From the old the new will be born". Like for example the old car parts which were made in the "Motor City", that are used in "Relics" gave way to new auto-motive ideas, which are used in today's world. That's where one can say the metaphor of the Phoenix to Detroit is valid. And every piece used in "relics" has a history and from that history comes a story: A story of how this great city was built and how it remains alive. Which all entails it's sacred?

Date: Fri, 14 Dec 2001 22:50:01 +0800  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: Sexy\_Playgirl83 - Kelar Newsome  
Subject: English Final Exam Artist takes on Detroit: "Relics" by Scott Hocking, 1975

"Relics" by Scott Hocking was a piece like no other. His medium was a room filled up with what appeared to be junk piled up to the ceiling. In the center of the floor, there was a high piece, like a block with many different things used for tile: old wood siding from a house, old floor tile, an old telephone booth sign, an old mattress, and so much more. Stacked one on top of the other was old toys, tools, a 1950 something Dodge bumper, a burned glove, pop cans, and decaying signs. The artist wanted us to look around and touch the so-called relics; the text was representational. Everything in this work of art was sacred because it showed just ordinary things, things we consider as garbage in a whole new light. He brought old abandoned pieces back to life; many of the relics were antiques that were meaningless back then. He shows the city of Detroit as a cycle of creation, decay, and rebirth. There were so many salient features, and the characters of this piece are the people of Detroit. This is sacred because it shows a city dampened by destruction, litter, and crime in a more appreciating, positive way. "The best safety device is a careful man," Scott Hocking.

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 00:11:26 EST  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class list serve  
From: Renee D'Alessandro  
Subject: "Artists Take On Detroit"

The piece Relics done by Scott Hocking and Clinton Snider, is a piece that is meant to take a trip back into the history of Detroit. The artists collected various objects that had previously been discarded as garbage, for example old toys, parts of cars or refrigerators, or even sections of road. Each was placed in an individual box and the boxes then filled the walls and floor of a room, only space for a walkway remained. This work of art is definitely an abstract text. When first entering the room, one would be overwhelmed by all of the items that totally surround the viewers, but it is evident that each box deserves individual attention. The room spoke to me as if it were telling the story of Detroit as seen through all sorts of different people. It shows that while Detroit appears to be a dangerous and mean place, underneath it all is a sacred place filled with all sorts of beautiful memories that are held close to the hearts of those from Detroit itself. The style also is very unique, which works so well with this piece by filling those who see it with emotion. Relics has a very strong way of instilling pride within those who are close to Detroit.

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 12:57:51 -0500  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: Corrita Murrell  
Subject: Corrita's Final Exam Artist Take On Detroit

The exhibit I chose was "Relics", the date of this piece was not given. The artists are Scott Hocking and Clinton Snider. The actual word "relics" means ancient or obsolete and refers to objects infused with religious and/or mystical meaning. The purpose of this exhibit was to show how the continuing cycle of creation, decay, and rebirth are displayed. They were shown in what seemed like a large vault from the outside, but once you stepped inside the room it was more like an example of years gone by. Each artifact in the display revealed something new and of great meaning. For example, there were old voltage switches, ventilation systems, and various bolts and screws, which seemed to reflect the industrial revolution. There were old toys like teddy bears and action figures, school bells, and baby buggies, which showed signs of happy children. These examples and many others proved that this piece had a very sacred meaning to it because these objects were bits and pieces of someone's life that could have had significance. The style of this exhibit had many different features as stated before but the overall tone was "old lost pieces of history that brought the realities of life to modern society."

Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 03:09:44 -0500  
Reply-To: English 1020-033 class  
From: Jarvis Joshua  
Subject: 1. Artist's take on Detroit

The piece that I have chosen is "Relics" by Scott Hocking and Clinton Snider. "Relics" was the size of a large room. It was presented as a display. It was basically a room full of old relics of the past, kind of a giant shadow box. It could be used to represent beauty in old useless junk. Much of the junk itself could reflect the rusted industrial aspect of Detroit. The old relics displayed were an attempt to beautify the rusted aspect of Detroit. The artist used junk that would be viewed profane by itself in the DIA to make a sacred piece of art. The presentation is narrated by the room to create a story of creation, decay, and rebirth. The characters of the presentation could be the different relics around the room. Each relic has its own story and characteristic. The artist uses discreet symbolism and metaphors through a surreal medium.

From: Shibin John ENG 1020 033 Final Exam  
Subject: English Final Exam

1. The "Relics" from the "Artists take on Detroit" show, is created by Scott Hocking and Clinton Snider. This piece is multi-medium because the artists use various items such as tires, steering wheel, rusted iron, toys, signs, etc... Each item came from the city of Detroit. All of them represent Detroit in some form. For example, the steering wheel tells a big part of the history of Detroit. It represents the motor-city, or mo-town. Therefore, this is a representational graphical text. The art is made out of wooden boxes, and in each box, there is an item that is weathered, rusty, or decaying. The artists collected "discarded objects that are on the verge of being reclaimed by nature." The piece captures the cycle of Detroit, "the creation, decay, and rebirth." The story of the piece is that Detroit was a great city and now, as the riches of the previous generation is decaying, the new generation is starting to bring new and improved things that the next mo-town generation will cherish. Although one might not think the piece is sacred, the title claims that it is sacred because the word "relics" is usually associated with "obsolete, religious, or mystical things." Each piece gave some impact on the history of Detroit, hence, it is considered as sacred. Every piece reminds us of who the metro-Detroiters were, and why they are successful.