

Curating Assignment

Description:

After reading about Paul R. Jones and his art collection, you had a lecture by Professor Lucy Curzon outlining the motivations and principles behind Paul Jones's collecting practices and his instructions for how his donated collection should be used by the University of Alabama. Dr. Curzon used his example to discuss how a curator plans, conceives of, and puts on a show of selected art works with a message, intention, and aesthetic guiding the act of curating. Your job in this assignment is to give curating a try!

Instructions:

1. Select three out of the four art works below from the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art to include in a show.
2. Look at all the images and try to recognize common themes, patterns, visual elements, materials/media, and content. Do some research on the artists and see if you can find out anything else about the art works themselves.
3. Then, as the curator, imagine that you are putting three of these images together into a show at a gallery or museum, which visitors will view as a group. The three pieces you choose should express a certain unified idea or theme, showcase certain types of artwork or a certain aesthetic, and/or highlight a group of artists or voices that you feel should be heard.
4. Create a list of your three the chosen art works and come up with a title for the show.
5. Write a paragraph of at least 250 words that gives a rationale for excluding one artwork and grouping together the other three. You must write in complete sentences. In your paragraph attend to the following questions:
 - Why did you select these three art works?
 - What do you hope to say/express with your show, and why didn't the fourth piece fit?
 - Give your proposed art show a title and explain how you would arrange the artworks in a gallery space to convey your idea(s).

Images of arts works contained in the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama



Michael Ellison, *The Mall*. 1987, linocut print, 42.5"x39".

Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama (PJ2008.0756)

Description: Block print in primary colors of women and children shopping. Foreground: Woman with turban, earrings and high-heeled shoes. Primary colors with dark values.



Joyce Owens, Revealed Truths and Myths #2. 2006, acrylic on canvas.

Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama (PJ2008.0920)

Description: Formal portraiture of woman in Renaissance costume and hairstyle. Torso and hair are Caucasian (white) while the face's skin tone past the fair line is African or darker brown in color with tribal ornamentation.



Cedric Smith, The Sugar. 2004, acrylic and paper on plywood, 42.5" x 39"

Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama (PJ2008.0756)

Description: Photograph of Sugar Ray Leonard boxing with newspaper headline. The artifact is in the shape of the medallion of the champion's belt



Ming Murray Smith, World Jazz Quartet. c.1985, photographic print, 24"x26"

Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art at The University of Alabama (PJ2010.0389)

Description: Photograph of a quartet of jazz musicians with paint smudged and smeared obscuring most of the image except the performers faces and instruments.