



Open  
College  
of the Arts

## Formative feedback

Student name	Alyssa Maddalozzo	Student number	514783
Course/Unit	Creative Arts Today	Assignment number	<b>3</b>
Type of tutorial	written		

### Overall comments

For this assignment you were asked to write a 1000 word essay making comparisons between the context and potential meanings of an 'old' image that has been reused in some way. In addition to this, you were asked to produce a 500 word commentary about your experience of Part Three.

For this assignment you have selected Bernard Pars' fascinating approach to the re-appropriation of Hokusai's famous *The Great Wave*.

You analyse the works well and communicate your ideas effectively through a well-formed writing style. While you make some strong points, there is room at times for more depth in your essay, reflecting the level of your research which can be seen elsewhere on your blog.

### Feedback on assignment

This is a well-researched essay which develops a good balance between research and personal interpretations. You have summarised the meanings of the works well and offered some well-communicated comparisons between the two images.

Regarding the original image by Hokusai, do you know how many prints were made from the original woodcut? Where was it first shown? Is some of the symbolism reliant on an understanding of Japanese culture at the time, and how might those symbols (specifically Mount Fuji, the wave and the specific type of boat) be interpreted differently by today's audience in other parts of the world? Does this highlight any possible changes in interpretation or approach to visual communications over time and place?

The difference of approach between the two images, with Pras highlighting the human impact on the sea, is a good example of how the world has changed. The level of detail in Pras' work contains a good deal of symbolism which is appropriate to the modern world – conversely I wonder how they might have been interpreted in Hokusai's time. It is fascinating to consider how much of a piece of art's original meaning can be lost over time, just as a result of a changing society. Similarly, it is interesting to consider how much Pras' image relies on a contemporary understanding and interpretation of Hokusai for its meaning.

You make an interesting point about changes in technology and media. With Hokusai's image, several prints were made; but with Pras' photograph, although the original sculpture no longer exists, the photograph may be reproduced repeatedly in different sizes and formats. What do you think the meaning of the emoji version of the Wave is? In this simplification does it still represent man's struggle with the sea or something more straightforward?

There is a good deal of research demonstrated in your blog post about the assignment. Make sure that the essay itself contains as much of this as possible within the allowed word count (including appropriate referencing for the images themselves), as at assessment the main focus will be on the essay itself. Some of the points you make that are missing from the essay are:

- The importance of Mount Fuji in terms of providing a sense of scale/distance, as well as the significance in Japanese culture
- Details about the types of boats and the cultural significance of these
- Commentary from other writers about the images (it can be helpful to include quotes within the essay to support your own arguments)
- You often talk of the perfection of composition, but it would be helpful to include a little more detail about this in your analysis

### **Feedback on reflective commentary** *Demonstration of analysis, reflection and critical thinking in relation to relevant issues and enquiry*

I was pleased to read that you have put some aspects of this part of the course to use in the re-branding of your clothing label. Your passion for the design resources is fantastic – I'm certain that you will be able to discover more and more as you continue your research.

You make an interesting point about our perceptions of perfection – that something that has the right balance in whatever way has the ability to become timeless. This has been the case throughout history (thinking for example of Classical architecture) and these elements of proportion and balance have informed all forms of art. In music, for example, structures

are often created based on the golden section or other such constructs, and the same rules apply to composition in the visual arts.

Yes, there is a huge amount to discover, but the journey is an exciting one, and there is always something new to learn, no matter how experienced you are in any subject area.

## Learning Logs/blogs **Demonstration of research skills and reflective learning**

*(\*Tutor guidance to delete: Has the student made reference to the key text 'Place'; Is there a developing critical analysis of research; Is the student developing their personal interest outside of the exercises.)*

Your learning log contains a good number of examples of visual communication (eg for Project 1). It would be helpful to add a few lines of notes to analyse and reflect on the images you've chosen. These images are an ideal way to demonstrate how your understanding of visual culture is developing, and how you might take inspiration from them for your own creative work. Remember to always explore the 'why' behind your opinions as well – if you think something is good, try to outline what it is that makes it good, in your opinion. For some of your areas of exploration it can be helpful to research a little deeper, and find out what other writers and critics thought of the same images.

The research section of your blog contains some good explorations and reveals a strong fascination for the subject. It is good to see a range of different areas here, including visits to exhibitions and contextual awareness of the work of different artists. Keep building up your notes on different practitioners across different art forms; you can also use your blog as a way of collecting and reflecting on inspirational material of various kinds that you might draw upon later.

## Pointers for the next assignment

- Reflect on this feedback in your learning log.
- Keep developing your critical reflections and responses in your learning log
- Continue with your curiosity!

Tutor name	Carla Rees
Date	19 July 2017
Next assignment due	18 Sept 2017