

TALKING BACK

MAKING PICTURES THAT RESPOND TO THE ESSENCE OF ANOTHER IMAGE

"The Photograph is not a picture of something but is an object about something." – Robert Heinecken

Please read the *Foreword, Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1* in the *Elements of Photography* (Second Edition) in preparation for this project. It is entirely possible we'll have a quiz on chapter one next Tuesday that will ask you to define the main components of an image.

After today's discussion about the essence of photographs, we'll take a trip to the library today to look at more published photographs. The principle location for photography books in Meriam Library is on the third floor, west side in the FOLIO, and X- FOLIO sections (look in the "TRs"). There is also large section of picture books and more technically oriented books in sections TR100-600+.

Please identify a picture (or related series of pictures) that you want to use as source material. You may choose a photographer from our text, but I ask that you first explore the library's options. I prefer that you choose the work of a single photographer whose publication contains a statement, commentary, or criticism so that you might get a more informed sense of their work.

Your image choice must be readily available in high-quality print form. We're going to make scans of the source material and show them with your picture, so print-based images are essential.

You may work with a single image, a series or sequence of images, and you may combine or group your own pictures if you have a clear reason for doing so. There aren't any restrictions on content, approach, or form, though I strongly urge you to choose something that's not too logistically or technically complex; this project will last just over two weeks, so there won't be enough time to delve too deeply into entirely new imaging or printing processes.

I would like to see your choice before you leave the library today.

Once you've made your selection, you will then make your own pictures that are a response to the "essence" of the original image or "thread" that runs throughout the photographer's work. Your response can take an infinite number of paths. Here are just a few questions to help you start thinking about the project:

What is the essence of the original (described in your text as "the subject" or "thread") to which you can respond?

Is there a way that you can respond in a way that doesn't simply duplicate the content, but re-imagines or re-interprets it with entirely new or different content?

Is there something about the form of the original that would be worth examining, responding to, or pointing out to a viewer?

Is there a way to take a part of the original - or even the whole thing - and incorporate it into your picture? Can you add to, or build off of, the original in some new and innovative way?

Schedule

Thursday 2/14 - Introduction of project - trip to library

Tuesday 2/19 - A discussion about RAW, brief demonstration, exercise, open lab

Thursday 2/21 - Fieldtrip to 1078 Gallery, scanning flatbed artwork, calibrating monitors, open lab

Tuesday 2/26 - Work prints due at 3:00 PM, critique of work in progress

Thursday 2/28 - Work day

Tuesday 3/5 - Final critique