

## Second Paper Assignment - Contextual Analysis

Due: Monday, March 27 to your assigned TA (specific directions given in section)

Format: Times New Roman, 12 pt, double spaced, 1-inch margins (refer to your TA's guidelines for further info)

For this assignment, you will visit one of four sites in St. Louis (CAM, SLAM, Laumeier, or Citygarden) and write a **5 page** contextual analysis of an artwork you choose from the list below. All three are free to the public, although Laumeier may require that you have access to a car or take an Uber.

What is context? Context can be anything that allows you to understand the work better. The artist's background, the sociopolitical milieu in which he or she produced the piece, and larger trends in the art world are all general examples of relevant context. Your analysis should cover these three areas at *least*. As you did with the visual analysis, you will formulate an argument about the piece, but this time it will be conditioned by a larger context. **What is gained by reaching outside the visual substance of the work, and what, if anything, is lost?** As with the first assignment, you **must visit the artwork in person** and it must be clear that you did so from the writing.

A note on sources:

This assignment should require some outside research on your part, including (but not limited to) the artist's background and the historical/social/political context of your chosen artwork. Sources for this should be scholarly, rather than Internet-based blogs or reviews. Look for peer-reviewed journal articles and good old-fashioned books(!) when possible.

You must cite all material that is not your own, including (but not limited to) direct quotations from a text. For this class, you will use the Chicago Manual of Style, which can be found online here: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>. Use the notes/bibliography format, not author/date.

Failure to cite in the proper manner will lower your grade accordingly, and failure to cite outside work at all is plagiarism. Refer to the syllabus for that policy.

### Contemporary Art Museum:

From the Deana Lawson exhibition: choose any two of her photographs to analyze

#### SLAM:

Anselm Kiefer, *Burning Rods* (1984-87)

Claes Oldenburg, *Giant Three-Way Plug, Scale A* (1970-71)

#### Laumeier Sculpture Park:

Beverly Pepper, *Cromlech Glen* (1985-90)

Frances Whitehead, *Hortus Obscurus (The Dark Garden)* (1997)

#### Citygarden/Downtown:

Richard Serra, *Twain* (1981)

Keith Haring, *Untitled (Ringed Figure)* (1987)