

Assignment 1: Collisions, Revisions & Reversals.

“Any elements, no matter where they are taken from, can be used to make new combinations. The discoveries of modern poetry regarding the analogical structure of images demonstrate that when two objects are brought together, no matter how far apart their original contexts may be, a relationship is always formed. Restricting oneself to a personal arrangement of words is mere convention. The mutual interference of two worlds of feeling, or the juxtaposition of two independent expressions, supersedes the original elements and produces a synthetic organization of greater efficacy. Anything can be used.” (Debord, Guy. *A Users Guide to Détournement*)

Dialectics of idea and image

“an element which has no importance in itself ... thus draws all its meaning from the new context in which it has been placed.” (Debord, Guy. *ibid*)

- Subtraction
- Discordant meaning
- Contradiction
- Turning in
- Turning against
- Indeterminate Certainty

Start by putting something down and then echo or juxtapose it. The work makes the work! How do we make meaning without intention or through happenstance? Expand the image by thinking about a burning question such as one that speaks to a contemporary social or cultural issue. Work with randomness e.g., incidental events of a drawing based on the above list of text as generator or obstruction, but also as a guide.

Develop a collaged “commentary” based on collision, revision, reversal. This can be expected to start very experimentally to populate the space or to juxtapose elements or change configurations by ripping or cutting out. One thing leads to the next and may be ‘generative’. Using chance operations consider the idea of each collage piece being an active element – or an ‘actor’ – it has a function in the space and the elements interact with each other.

e.g., Elsworth Kelly created paintings by using chance operations to assign colours in a grid. He also created works on paper that he then cut into strips or squares and reassembled using chance operations to determine the placement. John Heartfield and Martha Rossler devised acerbic political critiques that were both enigmatic and poetic.