

Assignment #2: Choice of two themes

A: 'Nature as Generator' or B: 'Text as Encounter'

### **A: Nature as Generator:**

You will need material such as: natural history elements, or "stand---ins", even detritus, e.g., things that can represent nature in some related or oblique way. Start with a snippet from the previous project for 'recycling' and respond to an aspect on the theme of nature as generator.

#### **Resource suggestions:**

- 1) Constructed nature as a power generator: A design for bladeless windmill that transforms moisture droplets into electricity without the rotating blades on windmill  
<http://www.gizmag.com/ewicon-bladeless-wind-turbine/26907/>
- 2) Images in nature as pattern / design generators: Ernst Haeckel art forms in nature  
Donald Duck in Math Magic Land:  
<http://www.schooltube.com/video/4330a09d98c125dcaa00/> Biodiversity Museum  
Biomimicry
- 3) Evolution as a drawing generator
- 4) Nature as collage: nurse log Neukom Vivarium by Mark Dion  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neukom\\_Vivarium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neukom_Vivarium)
- 5) Counterpoint --- City as collage: "It might be strange to call it culture, but a great and subversive work of art, an immensely complex collage, is made and remade every day on the street and everyone participates in its fabrication. Trash, like graffiti, is something which people make collectively, and not quite inadvertently. Its form and the manner of its making are closely tied to the materials of our commercial culture and our attitudes to its products and the environment"  
Gargantua: Manufactured Mass Culture, Julian Stallabrass, p. 172 "trash"  
transforming nature into city via collage.

Have a look at the abstract of this doctoral thesis (called 'Dirty Modernism: Ecological Objects in American Poetry', 2014) by Michael Douglas Sloane (starting on page 2) for another perspective on the notion of 'refuse' and culture and in text discussions of waste as refuse and waste as landscape within visual art:

<http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4037&context=etd>

## Consider:

>Donna Haraway's (A Cyborg Manifesto) – leaky distinctions between animal/human and machine. See

<http://www.sfu.ca/~decaste/OISE/page2/files/HarawayCyborg.pdf>

>Notion of a “wicked problem” (a term used in social planning where a problem is difficult to solve because it is incomplete, contradictory and has changing requirements, thus resistance to resolution) – it refers to complex interdependencies -- solving one thing, may reveal or create other problems, or even the problem cannot be understood until after it is solved! (Climate change is an example of a super wicked problem.)

>a juggernaut [unstoppable force]

## B) Text as Encounter

You will need text material for this project. Start with a snippet from the previous week for ‘recycling’. (Note: Text project may morph into Nature as Generator project or vice versa). Consider the following:

Collage as ‘text’ as formulation and/or interrogation of ‘meaning’ and linguistics.  
Text (about the future?) – (a path to the future?)

>making text – e.g., writing on a surface large enough to cut out

> dynamics of space

>using detritus to create letterforms/words and chance encounters.

>‘Words’ as collection/assemblage

>Words demand a place/presence and reassert themselves as you try to cover and hide them. Every time one is covered another word comes through.

(eg. Jacques Villeglé: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques\\_Villeglé%C3%A9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Villeglé%C3%A9))

> “Language to be looked at and/or things to be Read”

See Robert Smithson’s drawing called ‘Heap of Language’

> Spatial structure also elaborates meaning

> Sculpting form with text

> Juxtaposition pieces —> dialogues —> responses (photocopy and recut)

see Ian Breakwell’s collage called “Bored” that responds to Baldessari’s artwork called ‘I will not make any more boring art’.

> Architectural space – structure vs. passage

> Easy reading and difficult reading

> Creation of pattern, rhythmic pattern

> Science fiction text

**Consider:**

New encounters “...liberated from fixed meanings and liberating new energies, contaminate and transform each other.” Surrealist Collage in Text and Image: Dissecting the Exquisite Corpse, Adamowicz, p.43

“PARATAXIS” – essay by Adorno – principle of montage or ‘spacing’ one thing after another without logical connectives (talking about Hölderlin poetry) – no punctuation, or syntax needed

--- Rhetorical narrative

Artist Examples:

Kurt Schwitters – Merzbild

Andre Breton – object

poem Georges Braque

Guillaume Apollinaire

Barbara Kruger

Jenny Holzer

Bruce Nauman

Ciprian Mureşan – Romanian artist – uses absurdity and dark humour:

1. Plays by Chekov and Woyzeck are played simultaneously on the same stage.

Two books by