

## Gallery Presentation Assignment

The gallery presentation will give you an opportunity to think deeply about several issues related to this course, such as:

How do artists use concealment and revelation in their work?

How do artists comment on topics like privacy, secrecy, and surveillance?

How is material culture used in people's efforts to conceal and reveal ideas or information?

You will work with a group of students to analyze and present one of four pieces of art to your classmates. You should plan to spend at 30 minutes by yourself looking at and reflecting on the work of art you select. After you have completed viewing the piece, you should then begin doing some research and analysis for this assignment with your group.

Your presentation should shed light on how course themes emerge in three domains: the artist, the object, and the cultural context in which the piece of art was produced.

**Artist:** Who is the artist? What are their politics and aspirations? How were they trained?

You should analyze the artist's biography, including their training, their participation in wider cultural or political movements, and their commentary on their art. This commentary may be found in published interviews, published articles authored by the artist, and in the case of contemporary artists on their websites as well. You may also consider the role of the training received by the artist and his/her employment history in shaping their artistic expression.

**Object:** How was the object made? What persons, events, or locations does it portray? How can course readings help us understand the work of art?

You should analyze how the object was made and what it portrays. Please describe the materials and processes used by the artist, the events, locations, and persons being depicted, and the relationships between these elements. You should also discuss how these ideas relate to course themes like concealment, privacy, dissimulation, etc.

**Cultural context:** What is the historical and cultural context in which this work of art was produced? What issues, practices, events, and/or discourses is it responding to?

Please analyze the relevance of the events, persons, or locations represented in the piece to the cultural and historical context in which it was produced. Be sure to discuss historically and culturally specific discourses, practices, and politics the artist is responding to.

You will have 30 minutes to give your presentation. A great presentation will provide your classmates with the information and analysis requested above *and* engage the class in a discussion about the piece.