

Sacred Space & Cultural Studies

studio

Bermudez / Pallasmaa

PROJECT 01 THE POETICS OF EMOTION

STARTS Monday 29 August
INTERIM R Friday 9 September @ 2:15 PM
DUE Monday 19 September at 2:15PM (MILLER)

*All art forms – such as sculpture, painting, music, cinema and architecture – are specific modes of thinking. They represent ways of sensory and embodied thought characteristic to the particular artistic medium. These modes of thinking are images of the hand and the body and they exemplify essential existential knowledge. Instead of being mere visual aestheticization, architecture, for instance, is a mode of existential and metaphysical philosophising through the means of space, structure, matter, gravity and light. Profound architecture does not merely beautify the setting of dwelling; great buildings articulate the experience of our very existence.” Juhani Pallasmaa, **The Thinking Hand** (2009).*

CONTEXT The purpose of this exercise is to sense and identify the emotional contents in artistic works. In established Western thought, emotion is often regarded as a purely personal and vague area of experience and feeling which does not have a major role in human cognition or behaviour. Yet, we can justifiably speak of “emotional intelligence” and regard our emotive responses as the most comprehensive and synthetic reactions to the world. Besides, emotions can be objectively discussed as they have their specific intentionality and meaning.

JOB This studio assignment is to investigate/illustrate/demonstrate a variety of emotions through examples in various artforms.

The following emotions will be studied:

1. Sorrow, mourning
2. Melancholia, nostalgia
3. Consolation, solace
4. Hope, optimism
5. Transcendence
6. Mercy, forgiveness

The expression of these emotions will be studied in the following arts:

1. Poetry or literature
2. Painting or sculpture
3. Photography, video or cinema
4. Music
5. Architecture

Select an artistic text, image or photograph/sound/video recording from four of the five listed artforms to illustrate five of the listed six emotions (altogether $4 \times 5 = 20$ examples). Text and multimedia recordings should be presented in appropriate format. Talk to faculty.

PRODUCT The images shall be laid out, printed and glued on a foam-core base in a given format (10 by 10 inches). On the reverse side of each sheet, please, explain in a few sentences how the specific emotion is expressed through artistic and poetic expression.

Prepare yourself to explain the “emotional logic” of each one of your selected images in the review.

READINGS & REFERENCES

You are expected to read Juhani Pallasmaa’s book “*The Eyes of the Skin*” as well as review (and if appropriately read) the following references :

The Thinking Hand. Juhani Pallasmaa (Wiley, 2009)

Encounters. Juhani Pallasmaa (Rakennustieto Publishing, 2008) (particularly chapter “The Geometry of Feelings”)

Tectonics After Virtuality. Returning to the Body, Bermudez, Julio & Robert Hermanson (1996 ACSA International Conference)

<http://www.arch.utah.edu/people/faculty/Julio/tecto.pdf>

Pictures and Tears by James Elkins (Routledge, 2001)

The following links do not imply you need or should use any of the artists/works depicted. They are given only to expand your horizon of choices and thought.

The Sixtine Chapel

http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html

Nature

<http://www.vimeo.com/22439234>

Architecture & Cinema

<http://vimeo.com/7809605>

James Turrell

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-m_4MoKwjQ

Bill Viola

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR9av-I35ME>

TEAM 2 students

GRADE 15 % of the course grade