

Connor Plant

HCOM434

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In Depth Piece- Extension on Response 4

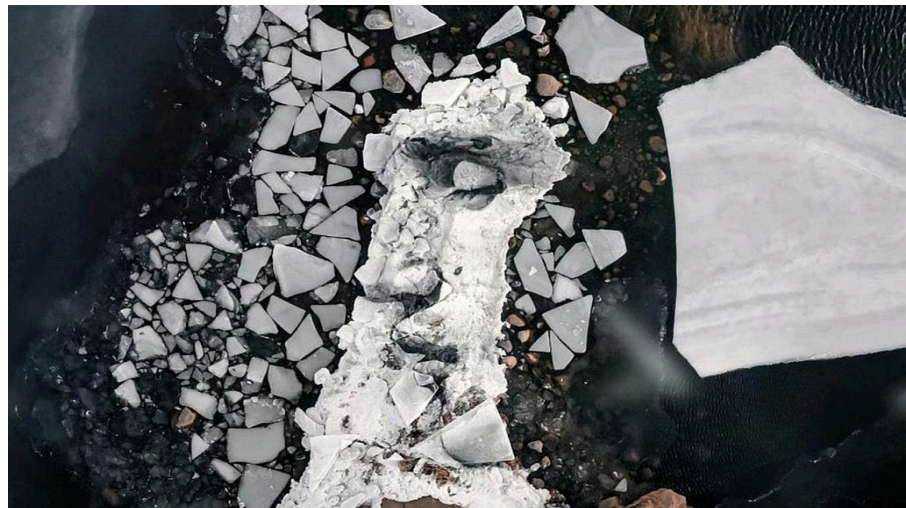
For week 4's response activity, we were asked to identify spaces with layers of history stacked upon each other. Full disclosure, I actually struggled a bit thinking about different examples I could use. In class, we spoke about buildings and remodels and how they continuously get more built on them and it is a never ending process until eventually, it all gets knocked down. So I was trying to think big, but then for some reason the only examples I could come up with weren't very large in size at all, depending on how you look at them. My first example is a diary. I'm not sure what about diaries made me think about layers from past and present at the same time, but it did. I thought about how from beginning to end, people usually change during that time of journaling. So it is almost like a different person is sharing their experiences towards the beginning of the book, and it is like a new person towards the middle and end of it. Some is written from the past, some is present, and they are all in the same place essentially.

The next thing I thought about was the internet, and how it is forever. So naturally there are websites, blogs, etc from the past that are no longer running. But at the same time, millions of new blogs and websites are created daily. All of them you can find in the same place, the internet. I don't know what made me think about a diary and the

internet for this exercise, but it's where my mind went. And lastly, but probably my most abstract example is money. I don't know why, but I thought about a dollar bill and how it has changed hands so many times since it was originally printed. There is a layer of grime that has built up over time from past and present, and is all on the bill simultaneously. Through the years, the grime build-up itself has heard more stories than we can ever imagine. Every time a bill changes hands, it is in a new wallet, pocket, or money clip that hears thousands of different voices and cultures each day.

To further the idea of layers of history stacked on each other, after the original assignment was completed, my eye caught attention to a particular page on TikTok. The page is run by American artist David Popa who does realistic charcoal portraits on large pieces of floating ice off the coast of Finland in the Baltic Sea. His work is truly incredible and it drew my attention to his website <https://www.davidpopaart.com/>, and my jaw continued to drop. As temperatures fluctuate around freezing, through a combination of sunny hours and the ice chill of Finland, Popa is able to capture unique perspectives of his art as the blocks of ice are always shifting and moving, never being identical.

His project is called the "fractured" project and is truly breathtaking. It reminded me of the theme of our class, times of uncertainty,



and how quickly perspective can change in the most literal of terms. As the ice melted, some would sink to the bottom of the ocean, and other pieces would float off further and further from the initial starting point. This created a magical experience and great photography. Since this project, his art has really taken off and his creative mind has taken it to the next degree. Most of his work now focuses on the landscape surrounded by his art. I love how as the land changes, so does his art. The ground that he strategically chooses has its own history stacked up on itself as well. The blocks of ice are melting due to global warming which is evident in the photos. Following the theme of uncertainty, for me personally it really resonates with my life because of where I am at in my academic career, along with professional career. Being at the very end of school means graduation. Graduation means it is time to start looking for a career oriented job. All those decisions are exciting but new. It is uncertain whether I will enjoy my new job, co-workers, or even work environment. Similar to Popa's work, it is uncertain whether a particular block of ice that he decides to draw on will hold up or look how he envisions it. Regardless of that fear, he as an artist must always give it a shot, and so do I as a graduating student. Without taking risks, nothing will ever come to fruition. Graduating

can be an intimidating time for some, but also an exciting time. If one thing is for certain, it is a time of change, transition and uncertainty.

Change is evident, and change is inevitable,
It doesn't care if you're poor, blue collar, or rich and drive a convertible.
It will happen, and we must embrace it
Not run from it.

Becoming stagnant will not help, only make the journey harder,
We must learn, grow, and pivot, as life progresses working smarter.
Don't be the stubborn adult who has yet to learn,
Make it easy on yourself when it's your turn.

Unexpected turns at every stage of life,
When you need a shoulder to cry on, seek your spouse, seek your wife.
Diversity and hardship testing you every step of the way,
Don't fight Piper, make sure she is paid.

The future can be intimidating and uncertain to say the least,
Don't be timid, tackle it head on and take down the beast.
The David to my Goliath underdogs always hungry, ready to feast.



Certainly times of uncertainty
worry most unless you're prepared,
No anxiety, no worries, no
reason to be scared.

Times of uncertainty can be
intimidating and cause angst leading to
anxieties and strain on mental health.
Being prepared can only help ease the
process, creating fluidity and organic
transitions. David Popa embraces this
by drawing beautiful charcoal work on
blocks of ice knowing that they will

change and never have two pieces be identical. Similar to history layered upon each other, his work on blocks of ice has layers upon layers due to the ice constantly melting, enduring the elements. Nothing is guaranteed tomorrow, so in a way life will always have a sense of uncertainty. It is much more enjoyable when you're prepared and ready for whatever life throws at you, and life will always throw something at you!