

Museum of Newton Haven

Arranged by Spencer Cook

EXHIBIT A:

NAME: Che farò senza Eurydice

ARTIST: Mark di Suvero

YEAR: 1959

VERDICT: Accepted



COMMENTS:

This piece of art makes the cut for being interesting and lacking any sort of implication of some deeper meaning. It's simply fascinating to look at from every angle. It's creative and unique. Planks of wood are fastened together by rope and nails, looking like it came out of a piece of wreckage, or a glob of mud that rolled down a hill and collected dust and hair particles. It represents my core values simply because it doesn't try to be more than what it is, but it's unique and interesting.

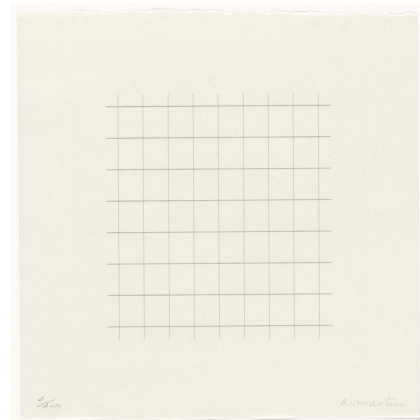
EXHIBIT B:

NAME: Untitled (Study for "On a Clear Day")

ARTIST: Agnes Martin

YEAR: 1972

VERDICT: Rejected



COMMENTS:

I couldn't tell you exactly what I'm looking at here. This is but one photo of the exhibit, which in reality consisted of two walls, both lined with pieces of graph paper like this, varying in box size and dimensions. It's not pleasing to the eye, and it's certainly not very artistic to me. I'm not sure what the point of it is, and it doesn't back up a single value of mine. It's vague, uninteresting, and bland.

EXHIBIT C:

NAME: Big Big Penny
ARTIST: Tom Otterness
YEAR: 1993
VERDICT: Accepted

COMMENTS:

No false advertising here. What you are promised is exactly what you get. A big, big penny. Being rolled by tiny little peg figures. Sculptures like this are highly intriguing to me in the way they enlarge small features into something big and then create a tiny little scene around it. It once again represents my core values by being pleasing to the eye and capturing something small in the eyes of something smaller, as if we were ants viewing the penny rolling along. Of course you could pull a political message out of this, but that's a discussion for another day.



EXHIBIT D:

NAME: Spiegel, blutrot (Mirror, Blood Red)
ARTIST: Gerhard Richter
YEAR: 1991
VERDICT: Rejected

COMMENTS:

This is potentially the worst thing I have ever seen in my life. No, it will not be making it into my highly important Museum of Newton Haven. What the photo doesn't show is that this isn't simply a blood red rectangle, but actually a blood red mirror. Which means that when you look into it, you see yourself, but in blood red. I mean, that's cool, but it's not worthy of display in an art museum. There's no variation in the red rectangle itself, so there's no unique spin on it— no, it's just a red mirror. I don't know what values are represented here, but I've seen things like this in hotel lobbies. Rejected on the spot.



EXHIBIT E:

NAME: The Chronicles of San Francisco
ARTIST: JR
YEAR: 2018
VERDICT: Accepted



COMMENTS:

This was a cool display. Again, the photo fails to capture what it's truly like in real life. It is a long panorama, shifting slightly left and right every so often. But while it may appear to be a long photo at worst, many of the figures in this image actually move every so often. It reminds me of the portraits in the Harry Potter movies or on "Haunted Mansion" at Disneyland. It feels like a moment captured in time, but living in a strange way that blends static and dynamic into one. Like you're living in the past, but as a ghost, untouched by the world. That may sound pretentious, but I don't particularly care. It represents my values because you can pull a lot out of it and stare at it for hours, enraptured by a world that may or may not exist, and may or may not have existed at all.

REFLECTION:

My extremely cynical take on art leads me to have a more conservative and stubborn approach to it all. I often criticize art, or modern art in particular, for its vagueness and open doors approach. It seems that anything can be art, but at the same time, anything can not be art— you have to get lucky on the consensus of your critics, but you don't have much of a decision on what means something and what's just a lazy and uninspired work of nothing. Who am I? Well, I'm not entirely certain who I am. I'm still on the road to figuring that out. But I know I'm someone that wants to be something, and not something vague and pointless that pretends to know what it is. I want to be something solid, real, and purposeful. Something that leaves a mark on the world.

Image sources (in order):

1. <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/cb/a4/03/cba403841d07ebb0d02cc506a0a561ae.jpg>
2. <http://www.moma.org/media/W1siZiIsIjI2MzE4NSJdLFsicClmNvbnZlcnQiLClcmVzaXpIIDlWMDb4MjAwMFx1MDAzZSjdXQ.jpg?sha=b2bf7f490a49419a>
3. <https://www.thebroad.org/sites/default/files/art/otterness-penny.jpg>
4. https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/sfmoma-media-dev/www-media/2018/08/2506273/0/98.203_01_FTD02-Large-TIFF_4000-pixels-long.jpg
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