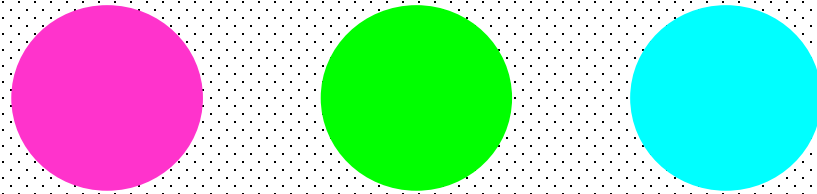


Aesthetics and the Rationality of Sensory Input



Question: Does the addition of sensory experience (visual, tactile) enhance the aesthetic value of a functional object from purely affective to rational?

Sensory Input and Rationality: Elevated Objects?



Floral Vases
Blown Glass
Dalayce Nichiporik, 2018

Does adding color, texture or imagery elevate a functional object beyond just its use?

Art vs. tool?

- Variation of the Art vs. craft debate

“Decoration” does... something.

Otherwise we would live in a world where there would be one standardized, perfected choice.

-One cup, one car, one house-

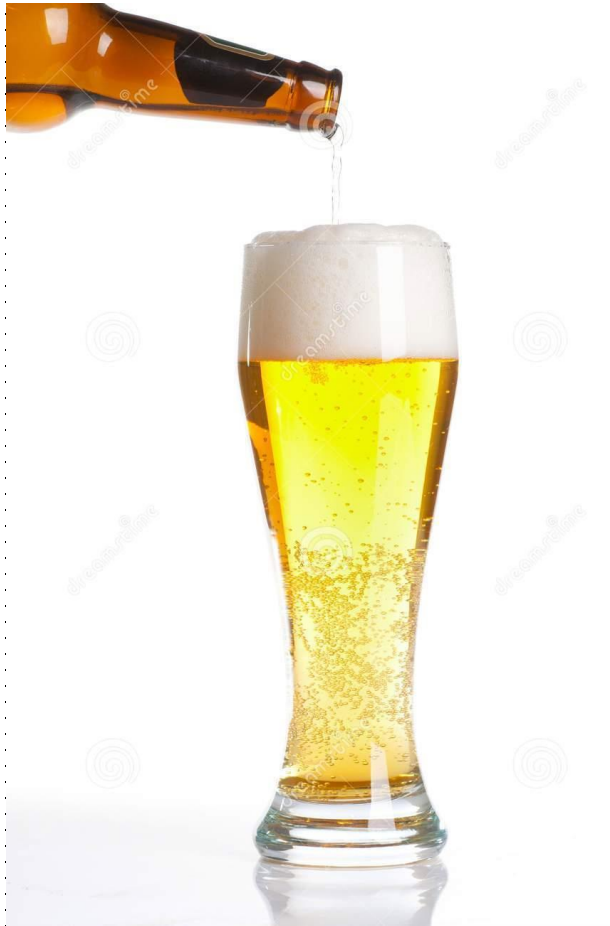


Graphic Floral Carafe
Blown Glass
Dalayce Nichiporik, 2018

Sensory Input and Rationality: Aesthetic of Function

Positive affective experience that comes from using an object perfectly suited to its intended function.
i.e.) Favorite beer mug

**RATIONAL APPRECIATION OF VISUAL AESTHETIC
BASED ON ASSOCIATION WITH FUNCTION.**



<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/beer-pouring-bottle-glass-isolated-24775128.jpg>



<https://taylordmilestones.com/products/10-oz-scotch-whiskey-glasses>

Sensory Input and Rationality: Materiality

Christina Mills: Materiality as the Basis for the Aesthetic Experience

- Physical, material nature of a work becomes a vehicle for conveying the “mutable and intangible...such as thoughts and feelings, both bodily and emotional.”

“Art locates viewers within themselves by engaging the senses; [...] The aesthetic experience is evoked first through art’s physical components and then through an intellectual engagement...” (Mills 2)



Sensory Input and Rationality: Agential Realism

Karen Barad: Intra-Action and Agential Cut

- Physical, material nature of a work becomes a vehicle for conveying the “mutable and intangible... such as thoughts and feelings, both bodily and emotional.” (Kleinman 77)
- Agential Cut – the object identifies our own boundaries as individuals



<https://www.photocase.com/photos/1723147-two-woman-hands-holding-empty-latte-cappuccino-coffee-cup-photocase-stock-photo>

Holding an object such as a cup makes us aware of ourselves.

- Our existence as separate
- Our physical nature
- Our relation to the world



<https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-photo-hand-holding-golden-thai-tea-cup-image22281185>

Sensory Input and Rationality: Multiple Arts Touch, Being WITH

Jean-Luc Nancy: The Being-With of Being-There

- Multiple Arts Touch – art can engage you on more than a visual level

BEING THERE ----- BEING ALONGSIDE ----- BEING WITH

BEING THERE – We exist. (Barad’s arguments of agential realism)

BEING WITH - Generation of a common, shared experience.

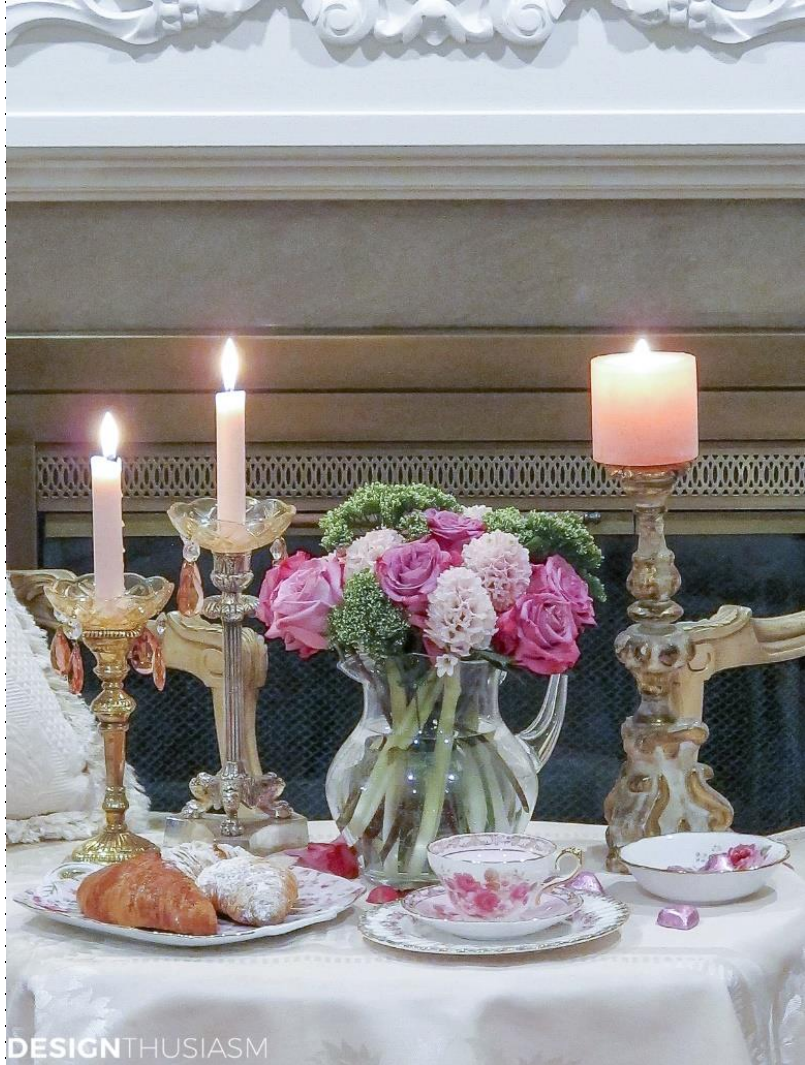
- Artists make rational choices of color, form and imagery to determine the shared experience they want to offer to the rest of the world.
- Create a connection with another person through a shared set of sensory aesthetic values.
 - Use the vehicle to a functional object to generate a positive emotional experience.

Sensory Input and Rationality: The “Fine China” Effect

The use of color and imagery triggers rational response

- Thoughts
- Memories
- Associations

Elevation of the object beyond everyday use.



The “Fine China”

- A category of functional objects that has special significance
- Generally more expensive and of higher quality
- Used infrequently and maintains its aesthetic impact (per Shaviro)
- Becomes ritualistic in nature
- Common experience multiplies with use, significance grows
- Objects with a memory, heirlooms

Sensory Input and Rationality: Iconography as a Rational Basis for Meaning



1970's: Power
Dalayce Nichiporik, 2018
Photo credit: Shannon Casey

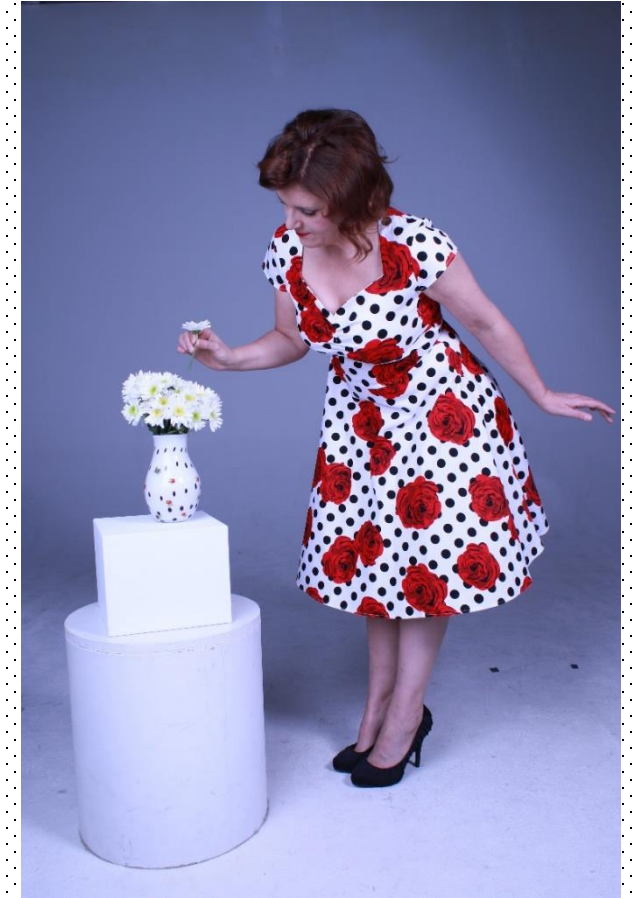
Create objects that invoke a reference to a specific date, time, mindset.

Flower Power

- As evidenced by the textiles of the decade
- Encapsulate the “shared experience” of women within those eras

1950's – Perfection
1960's – Pretty
1970's – Power

Imbue meaning into an object through rational use of visual aesthetics.

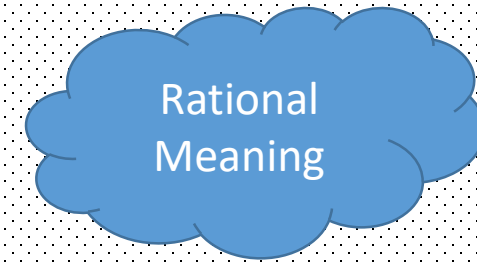
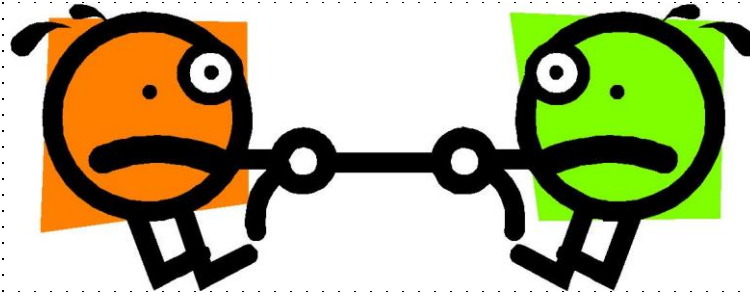


1950's: Perfect
Dalayce Nichiporik, 2018
Photo credit: Shannon Casey

Sensory Input and Rationality: Artistic Intent vs. Viewer Response

Do additional sensory elements enhance the aesthetic value of functional objects from affective to rational?

Or are we just creating a battle between the affective realization of self that comes from holding a physically comfortable object and the desire to rationalize these extra sensory cues into our personal lexicon?



“An aesthetic experience ensues once art materials are transformed, via an individual’s imagination, into thoughts and feelings that are, first, expressed by the artist and, then, received by the viewer.”

(Mills 2)

We set out to make art rationally, with a purpose in mind, with a shared experience we want to convey to the viewer that drives our aesthetic choices as we create.

It is then up to them whether they choose to appreciate what we have made at purely at the visual and tactile affective level or whether they choose to look for significance through rational process.

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