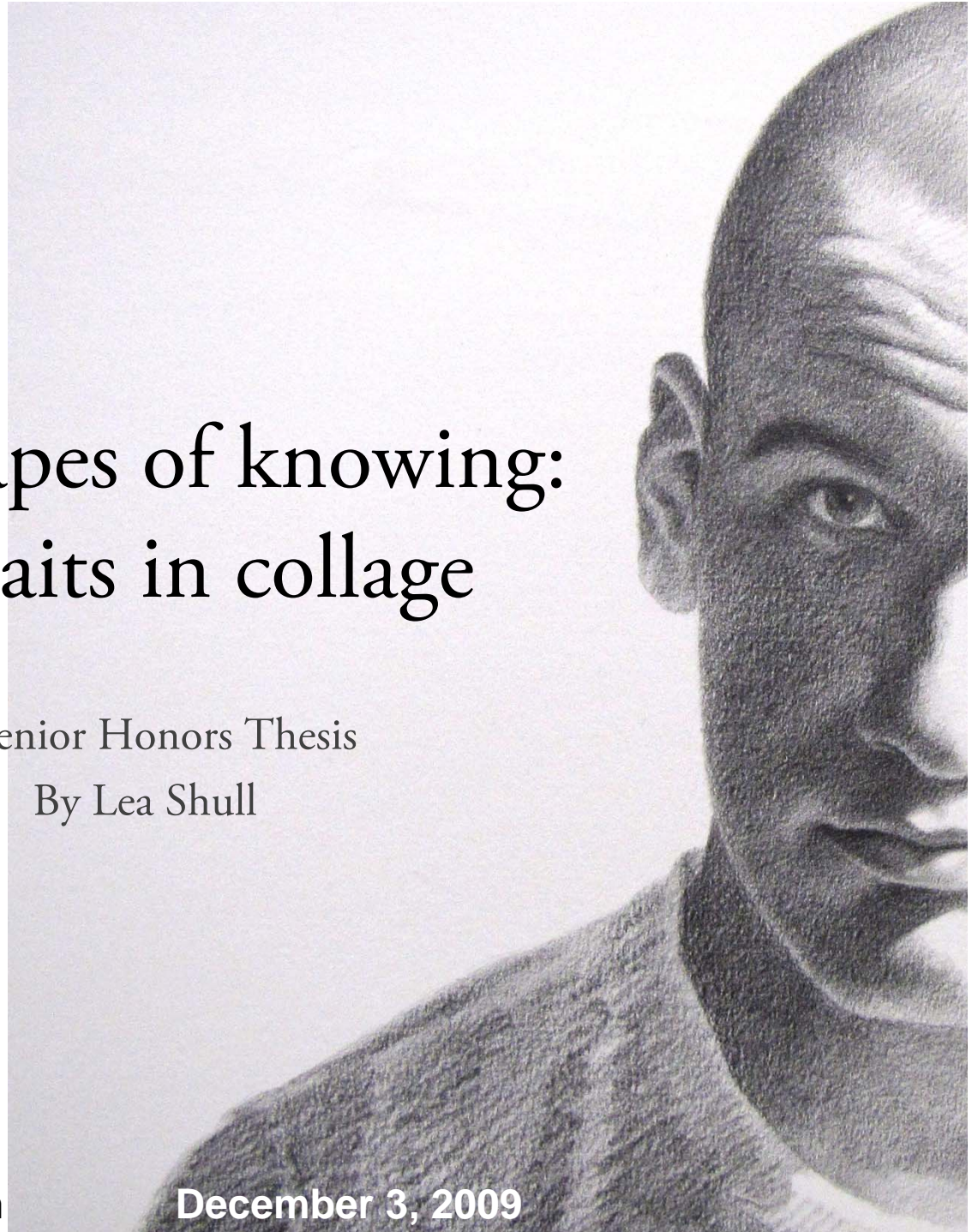


Landscapes of knowing: Portraits in collage

A Senior Honors Thesis
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The Project

- Creating near life-sized portrait drawings
- Integrating collage artifacts drawn from the lives of the subjects



Personal Identity and Portraits

Richard Brilliant, a professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, recognizes five constituent elements of personal identity that factor into the creation of portraiture:

1. A recognized or recognizable appearance



Gutzon Borglum, "Mount Rushmore National Memorial," 1927-1941

2. A given name that refers to no one else



Andy Warhol, "Marilyn"

3. A definable social, interactive function



John Singer Sargent, "Spanish Dancer," 1880-1881

4. In context, a pertinent characterization



Norman Rockwell, "Triple Self-Portrait," 1960.

5. A consciousness of the distinction between one's person and another's, and the possible relationship between them



Peter Paul Rubens, "Rubens and Isabella Brant in the Honeysuckle Bower," 1609-1610

- “All of these elements...may be represented by portrait artists who must meet the complex demands of portraiture as a particular challenge of their artistic ingenuity and empathetic insight” (Brilliant 9).



Frans Hals, "The Laughing Cavalier," 1624

Institutional vs. Private



Jean-Auguste Dominique Ingres,
"Napoleon I on His Imperial
Throne," 1806



Edgar Degas, "Portrait of Miss
Cassatt, Seated, Holding Cards,"
1876-1878



Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres,
"Princesse Albert de Broglie," 1853



Albrecht Durer, "Portrait of the
artist's mother," 1540

Drawing Private Portraits



Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, "Madeleine Ingres with the Artist," 1830



Rembrandt van Rijn, "Saskia van Uylenburgh," 1633



Edward Hopper, "Jo Hopper,"
1945-1950

At its best...

- “A much deeper level of personal involvement and response than is usually encountered in the experience of visual images” (Brilliant 19).
- “Within the kind of narrative found in portraiture, **we can recognize that we are not alone.** The level to which various forms of media permeate our lives ensure that we are confronted with an endless stream of faces, many belonging to people we will never know. Great portraiture rebels against our society’s tendency to stereotype, categorize, and objectify those around us. By celebrating a single personality, portraiture provides a humanizing influence in an age of detachment” (Aristides 184).

At its worst...

- “Probably more indifferent works of art have been and are being produced in the name of portraiture than in any other category of art” (White 113).
- “I hate to paint portraits! I hope never to paint another portrait in my life!” -John Singer Sargent
- Popularity of portraiture and a subsequent lack of emotional investment by the artist (they paint so many) renders many works of portraiture lifeless

Drawing a Story

- From empathetic to sympathetic
 - Drawing the people I am most familiar with – my family and closest friends
- Process
 - From photograph
 - ...to transparency
 - ...to drawing
 - ...to transfers
 - ...to collage



“Dad,” 2009 (Detail)



“Eric,” 2009 (Detail)

“Zach,” 2009 (Detail)

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... Committee, Golf, music and reading. ...
 'llie ... Gloversville 4 ... A regular at the
 om the start ... Threw one of the finest pa
 aster ... Although he was always neat, he got
 the bangnail of military fate ... Can always b
 any class day in the old barber shop.

William Towner
 Consulting Engineer - Marine Surveyor
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ROBERT WILLIAMS
 THE DEGREE OF
SCIENCE (NUCLEAR)
 AS EVIDENCE THEREOF
 IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK
 ON THE SEVENTH DAY
 OF SEPTEMBER SIXTY-SIX
 PRESIDENT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY

containers dock. I think they
 take all the containers off
 to Houston
 be times a
 good. Must
 is 7-14 days late when
 term effect as in today
 when parts are delayed
 is slowed or stopped. To
 pay what is called demurrage
 every day cargo is late reaching
 final destination a fine is paid.
 I imagine that some of this cargo
 go on the next ship passing through on
 to the Gulf which will be tomorrow



i THINK YOU'RE
 WONDERFUL!

Dad and Mom



“Dad,” 2009



“Mom,” 2009

Conclusions

- Drawing as a vehicle of deeper knowing
- Interrelatedness of surface and drawing
- Active poses and expressions
 - Benefits of photography
- Trying not to “over-draw” the drawing
 - Detailed face, simplification of body

References

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