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Comparison of Jason Rhoades and Helen Frankenthaler

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Core Concepts

For this assignment I chose Jason Rhoades and Helen Frankenthaler. These two artists stood out to me the most amongst the list. The artist's work that I am in favor of is Jason Rhoades. This leaves the work of Helen Frankenthaler works as the least appealing. They are two different styles and mediums. My mood is strongly impacted by the colors that surround me and lighting as well. I will explain the impact of the colors on myself mostly but will also include others aspects of how each one of these artists work affects personally, emotionally, and physically.

I have made the decision to not research farther on the web about each of these artists because I want to strictly express my impression only on what is shared under each of the artists I chose.

I will begin with the work of Helen Frankenthaler. My first impression is comparable to the feelings that one gets when dinner is served and the food on the plate is something totally out of ones desire of flavor. However, you are very hungry and it makes the food even more disappointing. I enjoy viewing art; as in this is symbolic of my hunger. Her artwork is created of colors that are very unsatisfying to me. The use of colors is so far out from my taste that it makes me feel uneasy. First, I will explain that I am very turned off by warm, washed out and dull colors. They carry a mood and emotion of mellow, loneliness, and depression feelings if you will. There is one spot on the second piece displayed that is a dark shade of blue and I enjoy that one spot, but even that one dark color is not enough for me to feel visually satisfied. These colors make me feel lifeless. I have always liked dark things in more than just color. I enjoy dark

thoughts, actions, decisions, movies etc. These two pieces lack any of the things I previously listed. The colors are much too innocent and unwelcoming to my taste.

Another huge aspect of my feelings about her art work is that these pieces take me back to a place I despise. I can easily relate these patterns and colors to a place that is visited by the human race every day. Not every human individually each day but as in regards to that it is open 24/7 somewhere across the world. If there is one place I loathe more than anywhere in the world it would easily be a doctor's office, hospital, or even an assisted living center. I only see and interpret pure sadness, depression, loss, fear, and acceptance of death in this field. However, I know help is offered and is even successful but from experiences of death and past visits I am turned away from the positive vibes that are possible. I focus only on the negative and these colors bring me back to the feelings I felt each time I experienced this type of atmosphere.

Overall, these colors leave me feeling in a mood that is best described as "poof I just have no desire to exist." Lastly, when I looked at these two pieces of art work I observed the flowers in each, or at least a representation of them. I also am turned away from flowers because of the label society has given them, girly. That too makes me feel uneasy.

The work that I found most interesting and relatable to myself was the work of Jason Rhoades. His work is very exotic and is a lot to take in rather than a simple painting or two dimensional piece of work. I was very drawn to his work on a personal level in respects to that my mind is very scattered and fast paced. Also, if I was asked to explain and share why each part of my thoughts are constructed the way they are I would not be able to have an answer for every part. This question may also be unethical to answer if one asked it in regards to his displays because there is so much going on at a time. However, I believe that my mind is scattered and filled with thoughts that are not necessarily in the precise location but are where

they stand for a good reason. They just do not exist randomly, but with purpose as does each readymade object within his display as a whole. So, this is how I feel about his work in that aspect, but will elaborate on how I feel about the colors and lighting.

The colors of his work is not all dark but does not feel washed out to me, and that is always a really important aspect of my like or dislike for any object in life really, not just from an artistic point of view. There is a range of dark and light. The light comes from the illumination of the actual light bulbs and I enjoy this a vast amount. The dark exists within the larger platform objects. For example, the wood table in the first piece shared under his link. In the second piece the light of the actual room seems to be off, or at least dimmed to give the signs a stronger affect to the audience. I really enjoy this because it takes me back to late night memories of walking around as a child when lights to building would be illuminated and I would not specifically pay attention to just that because I was goofing off with my friends but when I think back and imagine those places that's the first thing I visualize. Memories are very important to me and even now when I go back to those places, I can just stare at the structure of the buildings and the street lights or signs on the buildings. It surfaces really nostalgic feelings and that's when I feel the happiest.

So his work really takes me back to being young, innocent, and at peace with myself.