

# Unit 10 Major Critical Project

## Self-evaluation form

The intention of this form is twofold: to give you an opportunity to reflect upon your work for your 3<sup>rd</sup> year Critical Practice research project and to give us feedback on the value of the project as learning experience.

You should fill it out after you have completed your text. Use additional pages if necessary. It need not be typed, but do write legibly. Put a copy of the form with each copy of your submission. The form is not assessed, so please be as honest as possible.

**Name: Clare Collins**

**Course & Pathway: Fine Art: Print and  
Time Based Media**

### Self-Evaluation

1. Summarise your aims for the project.

My aim for this project was to educate myself about the true origins of outsider art, understand it better in relation to the fine art world, and share my findings. I also wanted to explore ideas as to why we are all so intrigued by the 'freak show' element of art such as this, and what attracts us to these darker elements. Because my knowledge of the subject prior to research was minimal, and I had gotten most of my information from movies and television, I was excited to read up about the historical and academic aspects of this movement, and use that research as a tool to further my points throughout the essay.

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2. How confident are you that the final piece achieves these aims and communicates your ideas to others?

I think that my final essay covers a broad range of sub genres of the Art Brut topic, ranging from the initial inauguration of the term, what it has come to mean over time, and its relation to the world today. I think that I have communicated the points that I was attempting to make well, but that a lot of the points are open ended, most likely leaving the reader to draw his or her own conclusion. This is something that I realised was going to be necessary, as I am looking into a niche subject matter, and there are no right and wrong answers. Much of the subject at hand is open for interpretation.

3. How has the project changed your original understanding (what have you learned)?

The project has changed my understanding of outsider art as a movement drastically, as I did not initially see it as something that had so much emotional baggage and ethical issues as it does. There is also so much more historical and medical research that has gone into this field than I had initially expected. I didn't actually full grasp the scope of it until I started reading academic texts about the topic. Since writing the MCP I have grasped a better understanding of outsider art in terms of ethics, consent, legal and financial issues that I would not have otherwise considered.

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4. With hindsight how would you approach the project if starting again? (Please comment on: time management, use of tutorials, any problems you encountered and how you dealt with them, as well as on the subject).

In terms of the subject matter I am very happy with the topic I chose. It is however something that has a lot of writing about it already, and I found it difficult at times to interject my own opinion on these topics as a bulk part of the essay is contextual history.

If I were to start the project over, I would definitely try and organise my time more efficiently. Although I didn't need to rush or cram in any work, I did feel that I did not manage my time well when I would have writing sessions in the library. This also goes for general organisation, as I would spend a lot of time researching, but not file my findings in a cohesive way, meaning I had to spend additional time trying to make sense of the research I had done. Although after I spent a few hours sorting through everything, labelling and categorising my research I elevated some pressure.

I think it would have been beneficial for me to have had done more to the first draft of my MCP. As I had changed my subject matter from what I had initially planned over summer, by the start of term I only had a few vague ideas of what my MCP might be on. By the time we had to hand in our first draft I had made an effort to piece together what I had done so far, but it was quite displaced and in bullet form. I was however still able to get constructive criticism from this that I found very helpful.

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5. What advice would you give second year students about to embark on their projects?

I would advise second year students to try and chose their topic before the end of the summer term. This way they can spend the summer break researching and will feel much more comfortable and stable when they return and begin 3rd year. Balancing studio practice, the MCP and PPD can be quite daunting at times, and it takes a lot of organisation and good time management to not become overwhelmed. Changing my idea after the summer break and trying to catch up with people who had spent the last few months researching was a stressful situation that could have been avoided. Although all in all I'm glad I changed it, as my initial project wasn't the right one for me.

I would also advise you take as many notes as possible, and take advice from your tutors when you have one on one tutorials. I found many interesting and prevalent points of research in this project through the suggestions given to me by my tutor. It's important to be prepared for these tutorials also, as they are only helpful to you if you utilise the tools you are given.

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