

Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum Assignment
2 East 91st Street
(Between Fifth and Madison Avenues)
www.cooperhewitt.org

Due: Week of 1/9/17

The Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum is part of the Smithsonian Institution, located in a mansion that was once the home of industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Considered a “technological marvel” when it was completed in 1902, the Smithsonian Institution converted the building into a museum in 1976. It recently underwent a \$91 million dollar renovation to create a twenty-first century design museum that would be “a place to inspire, educate, and empower people through design.”

Please bring a guest to the museum with whom you will discuss the assignment.

When you pay admission you will receive a ticket and a “pen.” This pen will allow you to download images to later pull up on your computer. You will need images for this assignment. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR TICKET.** The ticket has the information on it that allows you to download the images. Please attach your ticket to your completed assignment. You will transfer the pictures that you take with your pen to be printed with the assignment you hand in. If you are unable to capture every object with the pen, please take a photograph.

You are required to do ***By the People: Designing a Better America, Scraps: Fashion Textiles and Creative Reuse, and Energizing the Everyday: Gifts from the George R. Kravis II Collection.***

Then choose **one more question** to answer from the 2 optional assignments. On a separate sheet, write your answers in complete sentences and paragraphs. Make sure your answers are clear and descriptive. **Please type and print the final assignment.**

REQUIRED:

1. Process Lab & *By the People: Designing a Better America*

- The current exhibition in the Process Lab focuses on Citizen Design. Walk into the Process Lab and find a value that you care about on one of the “Hello, I Care About...” stickers. Put the sticker with your value on your shirt, and take a selfie.
- On the table you will find “questions to tackle” printed on cards. Find a question that relates to your value. Spend some time in the Process Lab sketching out solutions to your question on the back of your card. Take the card with you when you leave the Process Lab. Hand it in with your assignment.
- Find a project on the 3rd Floor in the “By the People” exhibition that reflects the value that you care about. Take a photo of the project and save it with the pen. Then copy and paste the image of the project along with the title, artist, date, location, and materials into your assignment. Write a clear paragraph explaining how the project incorporates the value that you care about.

2. *Scraps: Fashion, Textiles, and Creative Reuse*

- Walk around and carefully examine the fabrics and then select a pattern that you find aesthetically pleasing. Take a picture of it or make a sketch of it.
- Go to the Immersion Room and reinterpret the pattern into a design of your own creation. Do this by changing at least one element and principle of design. Take a photo of your new design inside the Immersion Room. Copy and paste it into your assignment.
- Explain how you transformed the original to create something new. Cite which elements and principles you changed. Discuss how the new design is similar to and different from the original. Could you imagine your new pattern on a home furnishing or garment? Explain where you think it would be most appealing and why.

3. *Energizing the Everyday: Gifts from the George R. Kravis II Collection*

- Walk around the exhibits and select one display/grouping of objects. Take a photo of the display and copy and paste into your assignment.
- Identify and describe the elements and principles that connect the 2D & 3D objects.

CHOOSE ONE OPTIONAL QUESTION:

1. *Scraps: Fashion, Textiles, and Creative Reuse*

The artists in the “Scraps” exhibition showed many different ways to avoid textile waste by creatively “re-purposing” fibers, fabrics, and garments. Your assignment is to go through your clothes closets and drawers. Identify clothes that you no longer like, and/or no longer wear and come up with creative ideas for re-purposing them! Pick something to redesign/repurpose by either:

- Drawing
- Collaging
- Or remaking it

Next to your design or on a separate sheet explain your rationale and strategy for repurposing.

2. *Form Follows Function*

- Select a functional object from the *Passion for the Exotic: Louis Comfort Tiffany* exhibit or the *Hewitt Sisters Collect* and discuss (with your museum guest) how “form follows function” applies to the object.
- Write down three questions that evolve out of your conversation.
- Write down three statements or observations as well.
- Take a photo of the object. Copy and paste the image into your final assignment and identify the materials used to create the object.