

## Share Paper 3

### Comparisons Among Types of Artistic Creativity

Due 11/3/08

In our discussions of visual creativity, we've explored certain "individualist" and "contextualist" elements that seem to be present in the way successful visual artists view the world:

- They notice patterns of form, line, color, volume, visual rhythm, material, and other visual elements in their materials that have not been obvious to others
- They make visual analogies among things that may have no "logical" connection; and by discovering these visual connections, they force us to apply our logic in new ways
- They re-present these discoveries to us in a form that doesn't just inform us of the discovery but makes us share in the perceptual and emotional drama of the experience; sometimes that means moving outside of traditional art forms into new genres, mixed media, collaborative production, and so forth.
- They are "problem finders," not problem solvers: as Sawyer puts it, problem finding is when the problem is not known in advance, but emerges from the process of the work itself. They are always open to serendipity, randomness, and "happy accidents" and function in an improvisational way to move from the known to the unknown.

Sawyer points to other important aspects of creativity in its "big C" form (i.e., the productive, successful visual artist recognized as a creative success):

- The artist is able to successfully negotiate the roles and relations of the "art world"
- The artist is able to collaborate in various ways with others who formally or informally shape the artist's "individual" choices.
- The artist is able to find ways of being productive despite the complexities both of the creative process and of creative success.

Now I'd like you to compare visual creativity to creativity in one other art form. Which of these characteristics seems meaningful across artistic disciplines, and which seems less important? You can use as your point of comparison the presentation in class by Adriane Fang and Karenn Reedy, both dancers and choreographers; or you can select any one of the chapters in Sawyer that describes the creative processes in another artistic discipline (Chap. 11, writing; Chap. 12, Music; Chap. 13, Acting).

Your paper should be 2-3 pages long and can be prepared as a chart of differences and similarities, or as a written analysis. You can include examples from your personal knowledge of the differences and similarities in creative processes in different disciplines if you choose. Because this is an analytical exercise, the primary criterion on which I will assess your paper is on the acuity of its comparison/contrast.