

A Diverse Collection of Contemporary Installation Artists

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I have curated a collection of contemporary installation artists using the social media website Scoop.it! The collection includes 15 different contemporary artists. Male and female artists have been represented in the collection. The artists come from a variety of global locations: England, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Thailand, and the United States. The artists included in the collection address various themes in their work. Examples of the themes and subjects addressed by the artists in this collection include: the female form, birth, authority, family, religion, sexuality, consumption, production, nature, urban culture, modern society, and human connectivity.

El Anatsui and Soo Sunny Park both embrace the experimental qualities of the materials they use to create art. El Anatsui is known for his freedom to experiment with a variety of materials in his work. His work “Gli (Wall)” is a massive curtain constructed of discarded liquor bottle tops and metal foil collars found in the Nigerian countryside. Liquor bottle tops and foil collars are cut, folded, and bent and then joined together with copper wire to form the large curtain. Soo Sunny Park’s artistic practices experiment with the ways light affects architectural spaces and what light allows us to see. A Styrofoam cup stuck in a fence inspired her installation “Unwoven Light.” She welded and bent chain link fence and attached plexiglass in order to create each sculptural unit for her installation.

Rebecca Ward and Ann Hamilton both feel that the space where they exhibit their installations plays a significant role in their work. This unique space requires these artists to embrace chance and practice spontaneity. Rebecca Ward embraces aspects of the gallery space in her installations. She uses all different colors and types of tape in her work. The work explores careful execution and chaos and embraces chance. The work she creates is temporary and allows her to not get bogged down with the stresses that can be associated when creating archival work. Ann Hamilton views installations as an animating of the space. She considers what she will do to the space and what it will do to her when she installs her work.

Barry McGee, Martin Creed, Pinaree Sanpitak, Gabriel Dawe, and Mike Kelley all explore cultural issues in their work. Barry McGee’s work is inspired by

contemporary urban culture. His influences include: the Mexican muralists, tramp art, 70s and 80s graffiti artists, and the San Francisco Beat poets. Martin Creed's work provokes his audience to have freedom to interpret and consider how we are all connected. Pinaree Sanpitak is inspired by: beauty, spirituality, potency of the female form, life, birth, humanism. Her work celebrates the female body and the body has been a continuing focus in her work. Gabriel Dawe explores textiles and the ways they relate to gender and identity in his native Mexico. The work explores the masculinity roles in present day Mexico. Mike Kelley explores the following cultural topics: authority, family, religion, sexuality, art history, and education.

Dan Steinhilber, Chris Burden, Naoko Ito, Choi Jeong Hwa, Bright Ugochukwu Eke, and Cordy Ryman address issues associated with modern society in their work. Dan Steinhilber explores production, preservation, and consumption in his work. He uses industrial byproducts in his work. He transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Chris Burden's art is inspired by technology, engineering, and modern society. Naoko Ito's work examines the relationships between the natural world and the industrial world. Through her work she explores the constant state of decay and renewal in our lives. She considers how nature is contained in urban spaces. Choi Jeong Hwa's work contains everyday, mass produced plastic materials. The work addresses consumerism and is less focused on the environmental aspects but more geared towards the consumption of everyday objects and materials. Bright Ugochukwu Eke's installations address human's destructive relationship with the environment. He considers the large problems we have created as a result of waste and consumerism. Cordy Ryman re-uses discarded materials to make new work. Sometimes he recycles his own work in order to make new pieces.

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