

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: March 25, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: Controversial Topics in Christian Art

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore conceptual artists who are pushing the boundaries of Christian based art.
2. Ask students to develop their own thoughts/perceptions of the works.
3. Analyze the implications of the art for contemporary Christianity.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

A Brief History of the "Piss Christ": <http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2013/12/25/a-brief-history-of-piss-christ/>

"Piss Christ" Destroyed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9MU5BoUaYQ>

Chris Ofili, *The Holy Virgin Mary* <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/global-culture/identity-body/identity-body-europe/a/chris-ofili-the-holy-virgin-mary>

"The Most Controversial Images of Jesus in Art:" <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/see-the-most-controversial-depictions-of-jesus-in-art-201942>

"Eggs Benedict" by Nikilee Johnson: <https://nikileejohnson.wordpress.com/2013/03/07/eggs-benedict/>

The New York Times Runs Image of Pope Made Out of Condoms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icgaveZhu9M>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. After reading about and examining other religious works by Andres Serrano, what are your thoughts regarding the Christian themes in his work? Should these works be banned/censored and why?
2. Both Serrano and Ofili used human waste in their religious depictions; do you feel there is any significance in their choice of medium? Why?
3. "Eggs Benedict" is considered by many to be blasphemous and critical of the papacy; why do you think this is so and furthermore do you agree?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Considering all of the works that we discussed in class and the supposed meanings we concluded, do you feel these works are controversial? Some of them have been damaged while others have been the source of so much controversy that they were taken down. Do you feel that this censorship/iconoclasm is appropriate? Is art different from theology? Should we have boundaries of what is acceptable in museums/galleries versus other places and if so, where do we draw the line? Please write a one-page essay explaining your thoughts on these questions.