

Appropriate Appropriation

appropriation [*uh-proh-pree-ey-shuh* n] noun

the act of taking something for one's own use, esp. illegally or without permission

“If you submit work that makes use of photographs, published images, and/or other artists’ works, you must show development beyond duplication. This may be demonstrated through manipulation of formal qualities, design and/or concept of the original work. It is unethical, and often violates copyright law to simply copy an image (even in another medium) that was made by someone else.”

—from the College Board’s AP Studio Art web page

“6.G Any apparent appropriation of published or photographic sources or the work of other artists clearly provides a visual reference that is transformed in the service of a larger, personal vision in which the student’s voice is prominent.”

—from AP Studio Art Scoring Guidelines

For this Breadth assignment you will be “appropriating” a photograph and including it in a design of your own. You will need to go beyond duplication and transform it or include it in a piece that is original. Some ways you might use the photo:

- Crop it so that a small portion of the photo becomes your composition.
- Use the photo as a reference for drawn or painted parts of your design.
- Use the actual photo (or part of it, or multiple copies of it) as a collage element in your composition.
- Use Photoshop (or other photo editing software) to manipulate and change the photo, then include it in your design.

Part two:

You will also “appropriate” the color scheme in a piece of fabric as the color scheme for your design. Again, you will be taking something (the fabric’s color scheme) that someone else designed and will be using it in your original piece. To do this:

- Choose a piece of fabric with a color scheme that you like or find interesting.
- Use acrylic paints, watercolors or other materials to recreate these colors as the color scheme of your appropriated photo design. The colors should match what you see in the fabric—same hues, values, etc.
- You may include some black and white areas in your design, but don’t use any colors other than the colors in the fabric.