

Study Paper “CLOSE-UP ON ART”

Provisional: Steffan Endres, November 2018

Artwork: Random Walk Drawing (Grey Landscape) 2012

Artist: Sarah Sze, American, born 1969

Mixed Media

PSAM purchase



In a series of “Random Walk” themed installations such as Grey Landscape, Sarah Sze works with a pallet of found objects and assembles them with the utmost care into multi-dimensional sculptures. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship “Genius Grant” in 2003; evidence of her education in architecture and painting collide into off-kilter still lifes and giant site specific topological studies that allow the viewer various perspectives and interpretations.

In the series Random Walks, Sze's work has been described as "visualizations of the hyperreal." Looking into Grey Landscape the viewer will find a conglomeration of oddly assembled objects the artist refers to as a "planetarium." She likes the viewer to see things off-center, and "representations" of objects completely out of context, as well as interiors becoming exteriors, and vice versa.. Important tools to keep in mind as you traverse this sculptural landscape.

This particular work was not immediately to my liking, and a real visual rubix cube. Not to be intimidated, Sze's installations are meant to purposely confuse the viewer. They ask you to allow yourself to fully engage in a completely fresh viewing experience, to think about how we see everyday objects as they relate to how we see the world around us. A sculptural landscape full of line and texture. As I peel away the layers and apply the artists vision of mechanics as it relates to the architecture of drawings/paintings becoming sculpture; I let the lines between reality and image blur, and begin to see the sky, the sun, a level becomes the horizon. Is the bulb of garlic a mistake, or a tree in the distance in this abstract tableau? The French Philosopher Emmanuel Levinas stated about Sze's work, "The real world is transformed into a poetic world that is into a world without beginning, where one thinks without knowing what one thinks." So I look without thinking about knowing, and I find myself seeing more...I think. A perfect placement for this work, as Sze prefers niches, stairwells and corners, where one can inconspicuously, ponder, and take their time in hypnotic viewing mode. Her paintings, and various large installations such as the "video-scape" Timekeeper series, begun in 2015 will mesmerize and fascinate..

Sarah Sze lives in New York and is a Professor of visual arts at Columbia University. She has had many notable exhibits the world over.

"In the age of the image, a painting is a sculpture, a sculpture is a marker in time" – Sarah Sze

References:

Widewalls.ch: <https://www.widewalls.ch/artist/sarah-sze/>

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en.wikipedia.org: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Sze

Youtube.com: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oivCLEc_jfU