

# Dia:

Dia at The Hispanic Society of America  
Education Program - Zoe Leonard

## Archive, History, Document: Responding to *Analogue*

**Lesson Plan:** Analogue Boxes

**Grade Level:** Elementary and Middle School

**Class Length:** 50 Min.

**No. Of Classes:** 3 including field trip to Hispanic Society of America

### Summary:

Students will visit the Hispanic Society of America in Washington Heights, NYC, to view and discuss Zoe Leonard's *Analogue*. After visiting the museum students will return to the classroom to create a response to *Analogue*, based on the notion of an Archive. The project will involve creating a time-capsule of a collection of objects that addresses the student's own sense of community, of neighborhood, and of identity. These are to be placed within a 3-D wall box. The pieces will be hung in an exhibition all together in a grid formation.

This project involves collecting things over time to create a personal archive and placing these personal stories within a wall-mountable construction, as if their collections were on view in a shop window.

The project can also be crossed with other subjects besides art such as Social Sciences, English, Mathematics, or Science.

### Learning Objectives:

- To expose students to contemporary artistic projects, engaging Zoe Leonard's work in photography, through the study of her installation *Analogue*.
- To further understanding of the concepts of archive, history and document, as applicable concepts to the installation and its different subject matters.
- To help students personally relate to the notions of archive, document and history, by creating their own archive

### Applicable National Standards of Art Education:

- Content Standard 1: Understanding and Applying media, techniques, and process.
- Content Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
- Content Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture.

### About the exhibition:

American artist Zoe Leonard will create art installations for Dia Art Foundation in the fall of 2008 at the Hispanic Society of America, and another simultaneous project at Dia:Beacon, in Beacon, NY.

The exhibition at the Hispanic Society of America will be a two-part project. The first piece will be the installation of her monumental work, *Analogue* (1998-2007), which has never been shown in full in New York City. *Analogue* consists of nearly 400 photographs shot on a vintage 1940s Rolleiflex camera over nearly ten years. Many of the individual images depict a variety

#### Dia:Beacon

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of storefronts, shop window displays, and consumer goods in various New York neighborhoods. Originally a document of disappearing and displaced urban textures, the project expanded in scope as Leonard became interested in tracing the circulation of everyday commodities as they are sold and re-sold in far flung destinations. The final compilation of photographs includes images captured on the streets of Mexico City, Kampala, Uganda and Warsaw, Poland. This exhibition implies also a return to its city of origin, given that some of *Analogue's* earliest photographs were taken in the northern Manhattan neighborhood near the HSA.

*Analogue* has been presented as separate photos, as sets of images, and as a book. For Dia, Leonard will install the entire suite of photographs, a mix of black and white and color 11"x11" prints, in a series of carefully sequenced grids.

Leonard's second installation has been commissioned by Dia to further explore the connections between her career-long interest in documentary conventions and the collections and spaces of the HSA. The artist will develop a layered, multi-media installation in which she treats archival selections from the HSA's holdings as found objects. Working in collaboration with several curators and librarians at the Society she will select objects from its collections including historical maps and photographs.

Leonard's exhibition will open November 5, 2008, and remain on view through Spring 2009, at The Hispanic Society of America, Audubon Terrace, Broadway between 155th and 156th streets, New York City.

## LESSON PLAN

### Field Trip

Students will examine the installation of Zoe Leonard's *Analogue*. After walking around the exhibition student and educator will discuss the work, learning relevant vocabulary to address the artwork.

### Discussion questions:

- Photographs. What are these photographs of? What do they have in common? Do the students relate to similar shop fronts?
- Installation. Why are the photographs arranged in a grid? Why are there so many of them? Is this installation an *archive*? What is an *archive*? If it is what does it *document*?
- Analogue. Define the word Analogue and ask what the idea of this Analogue might refer to, in this context. Is there a function to it?
- Composition and framing. Why is everything square? What has the artist chosen to put in the picture and what has the artist left out? Why?

### Vocabulary

- Archive: A collection of documents such as letters, official papers, photographs, or recorded material, kept for their historical interest.
- Document: Something that provides information or acts as a record of events or arrangements
- Composition: the way in which the parts of something are arranged, for instance, the parts of a visual image.
- Framing: the way that something is displayed or arranged so that a given image can be seen in a particular way.

- Curation: The organization and choosing of the items in an exhibition at a given venue such as a museum or gallery.
- Global: relating to or happening throughout the whole world.
- Analogue: a thing, idea or institution that is similar to or has the same function as another.
- Collage: conjoining various materials together to form a single composition.
- Found Material: material that is not bought—but found—and that is usable for other purposes such as a collage.

### Classroom

The teacher should lead a discussion about Zoe Leonard's *Analogue*, reviewing the vocabulary learned at the museum.

The teacher should demonstrate how to form a box using four 10" wooden pieces to be glued together in a square on a piece of board. The teacher must also explain the process of creating the window, and show a completed example of a square collage with a layer of acetate or transparent acrylic over it to get the transparency of a window.

Students will construct their own box "shop front," and brainstorm what could go in to each of them, and which types of elements could be used. The teacher would guide the discussion of the different possibilities of subject matter that they could address. The proposals should be written down in list form.

The students should use found materials (from home) which they find relevant to their lives and their own experience of community and neighborhood (the emphasis on which would depend on the teacher's specific curricular interest). It would be advisable for the teacher to have a collection of found materials to supplement the students' materials.

Using that collection of items that fit into the box, students will create their project. The final step will be attaching a piece of clear acrylic to create a window effect. The completed work should be installed and exhibited during class, with the assistance of the teacher, using a grid like format, in a previously designated space in the school.

### Materials:

- 12" x 12" heavy cardboard or matte board
- Four 10 x10 inch wood pieces per student
- 11" square transparent acrylic or acetate pieces (check local frame shops for free remnants).
- Glue
- Pencils
- Found materials unique to each student
- Vocabulary Visual
- Student Gallery Area

### Assessment:

- Criteria: Did the students learn who Zoe Leonard is and what she made for the installation *Analogue*?
- Strategy: In the exhibition space the educator will tell the students about Zoe Leonard and give them a printed out version of the information which is appropriate for the age level. In the classroom this information should be reviewed twice.
- Criteria: Did the students learn what found material is and how to assemble the material together?

- Strategy: Through demonstration and practice the students will learn how to assemble their collections of objects. Adding a sheet of plastic acrylic to the construction will be the final step before hanging the exhibition together.
- Criteria: Do the students identify a theme in their own shop windows? Can they discuss what makes their piece individual and what makes it part of a larger collection?
- Strategy: When the project is complete there will be a class discussion of the project so that students can share with each other what they have made, and talk about why their project is important to them as individuals.

**Product:**

Each student will have a 3-D wall mount construction, taking its cue from shop windows as the ones photographed in Zoe Leonard's *Analogue* installation. Each student's creation will be unique and reflect their own interests, constituting a personal display window of sorts. The pieces will hang together in a group exhibition where there will be a final discussion of the project.

The project will foster a sense of self worth in the students as they look at their project and exhibition. Each student will be implicitly represented in the documentation of a specified subject, while being displayed as part of a collective.