

Kirsten Ledbetter

Grad. Teaching Workshop

2 Oct. 2019

Exhibition Research

Leaves of Plates at the Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, OH. September 6th -November 21st.
Artists' Talk September 26th at 7 pm

1. General Description of the Show:

A. Who:

Katie Parker and Guy Michael Davis of Future Retrieval.

Leaves of Plates at the Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, OH. September 6th -November 21st.
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B. Materials:

Ceramics, paper cutting, water jet cutting of aluminum that is then powder-coated, -
mixed media

C. Describe the location/context of the exhibition space:

The exhibition takes place at the intimate, hidden gem, Lloyd Library on 917 Plum street in Downtown Cincinnati. The space in which the exhibition takes place is a combination of being exhibited with the collection of books in the main entrance/ lobby area along with a separate room dedicated solely to the exhibition of the works created by Future Retrieval during their residency at the Lloyd Library.

D. Describe the content or idea behind the work:

Future Retrieval is interested in the integration of patterns with classical works. They have had residencies all over the world and worked together for the past 8 years. Future Retrieval is interested in investigating the history of Ceramics as well as the history of patterning and ornamentation. They utilized the collection at the Lloyd library for source imaging for surface decoration of the ceramic pieces as well as the paper cuts they created. They merge modern technologies with classical practices.

2. Give Detailed Descriptions of the following:

A. The method of presentation of artwork (media of artwork, size of artwork, and how it is presented- frames, mats, pushpins, pedestals, etc.)

The way in which Future Retrieval presents their work is a mix of traditional and non-traditional methods. The work that is displayed at the Lloyd is two- and three-dimensional work. In the separate room that is used for the main exhibition, Future Retrieval uses a large bookshelf/cabinet that was originally used by the Lloyd brothers as the centerpiece for the exhibition and are displaying ceramic works and aluminum cut-out, powder-coated pieces in the cabinet. Around the outside of the cabinet, Future Retrieval has displayed large (3'-4,5'tall) blown up images that they found inside of the various books in the Lloyd collection. The images are mainly from horticulture and mycology books from the 1750s to 1800s. Along the left and right walls of this separate exhibition space, Future Retrieval has displayed 3 (a total of 6, 3 on the left and 3 on the right) large, framed, paper cut out works. In the center of this exhibition space they have used a table to exhibit a mixed media collection that shows multiple ceramic pieces and aluminum cut pieces that are displayed together. Outside of the main exhibition space, there is the lobby space for the library. This space is accessed by all visitors because it is the first space one enters when one comes into the building. Future Retrieval uses this space more to show the main books that they used as their inspiration, with a few smaller aluminum-cut and ceramic pieces in-between the books. At the opening for the exhibition, on September 6th, there was a table in the center of the room with refreshments and snacks. On this table, Future Retrieval introduced more ceramic vase pieces with fresh flowers. It made their work very accessible.

B. The nature of the exhibition space (size, shape, ceiling height, formal, informal, etc.)

The exhibition space consisted of one main independent space and a shared space. The independent space is quite formal and traditional while the shared space was less traditional due to the fact that it was a shared library and art space but also still a bit traditional due to the effect of books and pieces of art under large glass vitrines. The independent space is a traditional rectangular space while the shared space, where the art is displayed with some books, is more of an alcove. The ceilings are relatively high, maybe about 12 feet and do give a airy feel to the space. The space does feel a bit dark though due to all window being along the very tops of the walls, where the wall met the ceiling. The windows are quite small and introduce little light and do not allow people in the space to directly look out.

C. The type and nature of the lighting in the exhibition space

The ceilings are relatively high, maybe about 12 feet and do give a airy feel to the space. The space does feel a bit dark though due to all window being along the very tops of the walls, where the wall met the ceiling. The windows are quite small and introduce little light and do not allow people in the space to directly look out. There is abundant artificial lighting as well as spotlighting in both the shared and independent exhibition spaces.

D. The relationship of the art pieces to each other (physical and thematic)

Future Retrieval has a large variety of works in different media that they use in their Lloyd Library exhibition. They use a large bookshelf/cabinet that was originally owned and used by the Lloyd brothers as the centerpiece for the exhibition. Here they display ceramic works and aluminum cut-out, powder-coated pieces in the cabinet. All of the images used to create the patterning on the ceramic pieces and used to create the aluminum-cut pieces came from the Lloyd brothers' collection. It is very appropriate and thoughtful to have this new interpretation of material displayed in a place where the original books were housed. Around the outside of the cabinet, Future Retrieval has displayed large (3'-4,5'tall) blown up images that they found inside of the various books in the Lloyd collection. These larger than life illustrations create a small forest of beautifully rendered flora and fungi. The images are mainly from horticulture and mycology books from the 1750s to 1800s. Along the left and right walls of this separate exhibition space, Future Retrieval has displayed 3 (a total of 6, 3 on the left and 3 on the right) large, framed, paper cut out works. In the center of this exhibition space they have used a table to exhibit a mixed media collection that shows multiple ceramic pieces and aluminum cut pieces that are displayed together. Outside of the main exhibition space, there is the lobby space for the library. This space is accessed by all visitors because it is the first space one enters when one comes into the building. Future Retrieval uses this space more to show the main books that they used as their inspiration, with a few smaller aluminum-cut and ceramic pieces in-between the books to show the importance these books had in inspiring the work.

E. Other external factors (noise level, air currents, number of people in the space, etc.)

The Lloyd library is situated in downtown Cincinnati, but each time I have visited, the area is not a high traffic area and the library space is very peaceful. The space does accommodate a larger number of visitors but is a very intimate space. The space could easily become crowded.

3. How Do the Presentation Method(s) Affect(s) the Artwork?

If you feel that the method used to present the work supports and enhances its meaning to the viewer, clarify the criteria upon which you are basing this opinion.

If you feel that the method used to present the work detracts from and weakens its meaning to the viewer, clarify the criteria upon which you are basing this opinion.

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Future Retrieval was very thoughtful when considering how they wanted the exhibition to look. At their artist talk, they also elaborated on the fact that they were in contact with the Lloyd Library committee from early on in their 6-month residency. They already had visions of the kind of work they wanted to create and how to maximize the impact of the space to which they had access. This thoughtfulness comes across in the form of a very successful exhibition that only enhances the meaning of the works.

4. Explain how you would incorporate this exhibit, its background and presentation, into a university class setting?

Due to the fact that this exhibition is for two DAAP professors, that alone would be a huge driving factor for me to bring this into the university setting. Their artist talk was very insightful. They gave background about themselves, how they got together as a collaborative artist partnership, their experiences in different residencies, how they evolved through their time working together, their time at the Lloyd library as well as talking about exciting future plans. The opening, artist talk, and exhibition are great things for students to see. Students see how professors can be actively creating and exhibiting while also holding university jobs. I would also emphasize the research and resources elements that influenced the creation of *Leaves of Plates* by Future Retrieval, to the students. Finding resources and conducting research, however that is interpreted by the students, is an essential part to creating and evolving as an artist. This is something that students need to get familiar and comfortable with in their individual practice.