

Close Looking: The Art of Seeing

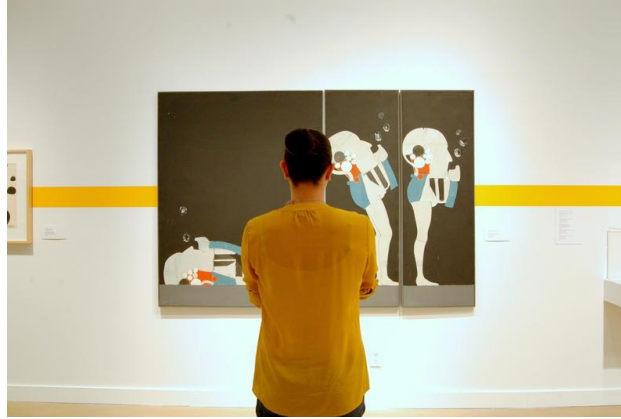
- a methodology

Danica Maier – Andy Pepper



Close Looking: The Art of Seeing

- a methodology

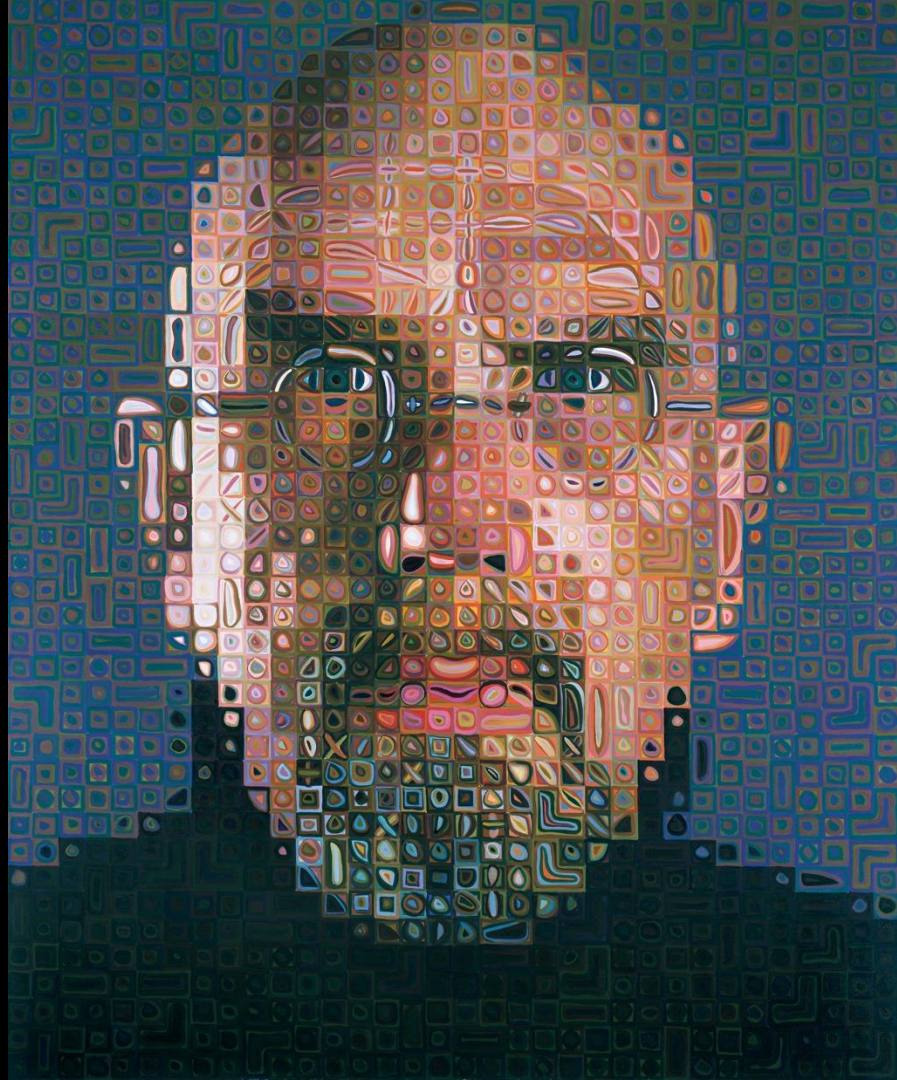


“Lines on the floor protect the work from people getting too close!”

This level of scrutiny (looking) is unusual.

James Rosenquist: *Illustrious Works on Paper, Illuminating Paintings.*
OSU Museum of Art 2014







17 seconds

The average amount of time visitors
look at a piece of art
shown was Chuck Close, 'Self Portrait' 2004-5

15 seconds

For the Mona Lisa

Metropolitan Museum of Art study carried out in 2001



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Banksy 2014



Banksy 2014

No Telos

8:30PM

No Telos
Maul
&
Dinner

8:00PM

Convive
&
Dinner

1:00PM

Lunch

(Doing)

Focused Exploration of
Practice and Beyond

Solo
Contemplation

8:00AM

Breakfast
Practices

(Becoming)

Slowness, Close Looking,
Lostness, Meanders,
Tarry-ing, Hover, Linger,
Waiting, Dithering

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Breakfast
Practices

(Becoming)

Slowness, Close Looking,
Lostness, Meanders,
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7:00AM

Breakfast
Closing

Convivium

No *Telos**

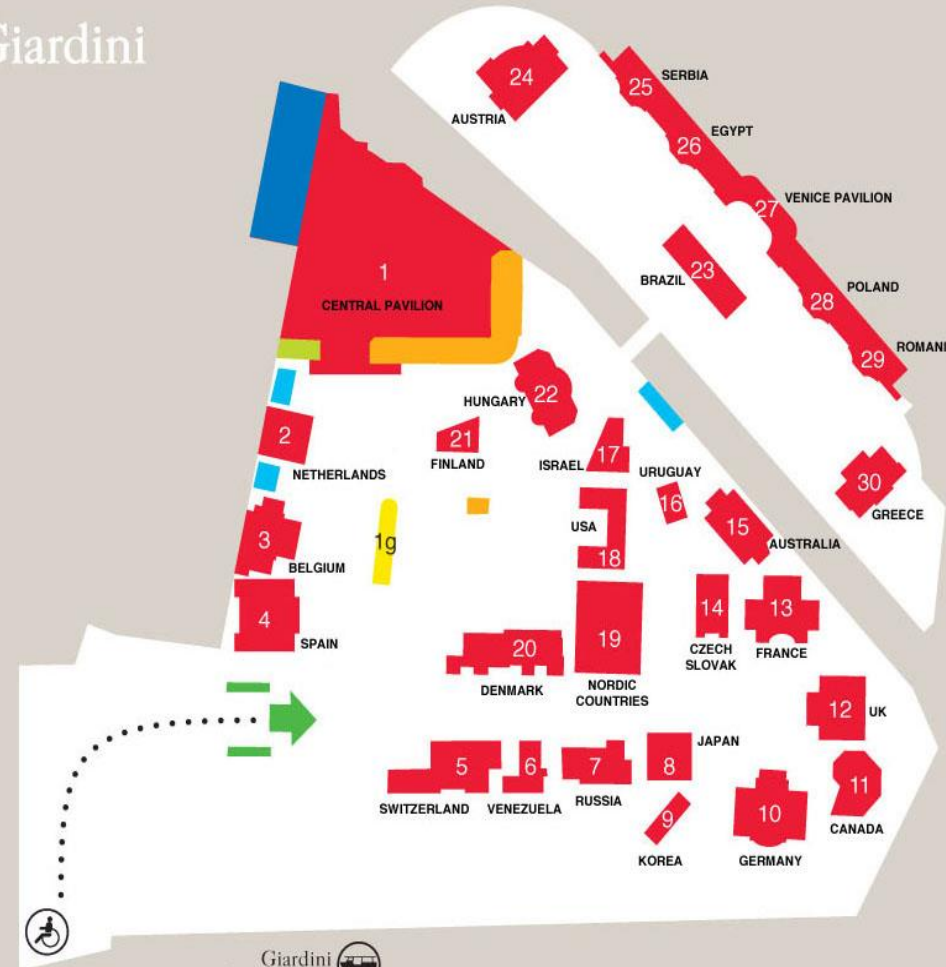
*The Greek **telos** (end}, *teleios* (perfected} and *teleTn* (fulfilment} - refers to an ultimate object or aim, a specific end or purpose. In teleological terms, the value of action is essentially goal oriented, determined in relation to achievement and attainment, the event of completion, of finishing, of reaching the designed destination or target. Arguably, through its radical 'purposeless purpose', art operates in vwillful refusal or subversion of this teleological tendency.

Close Looking :

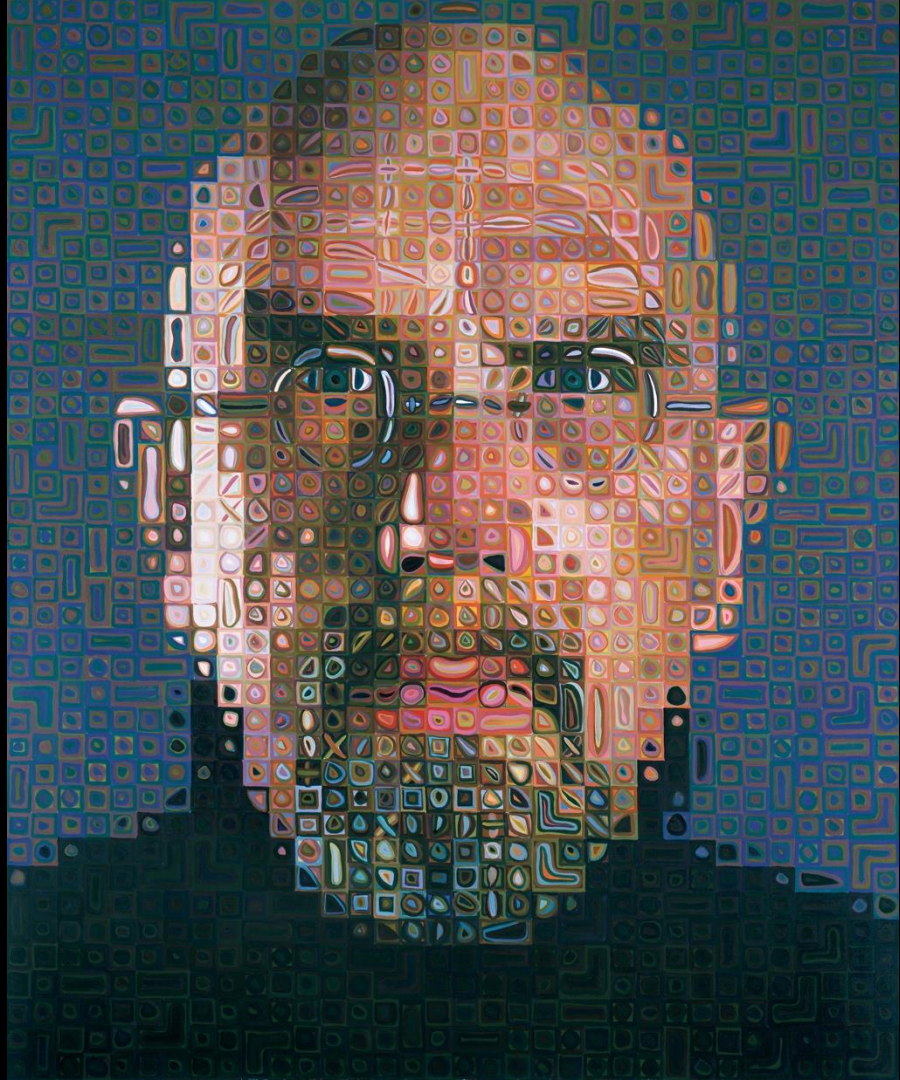
Our recipe

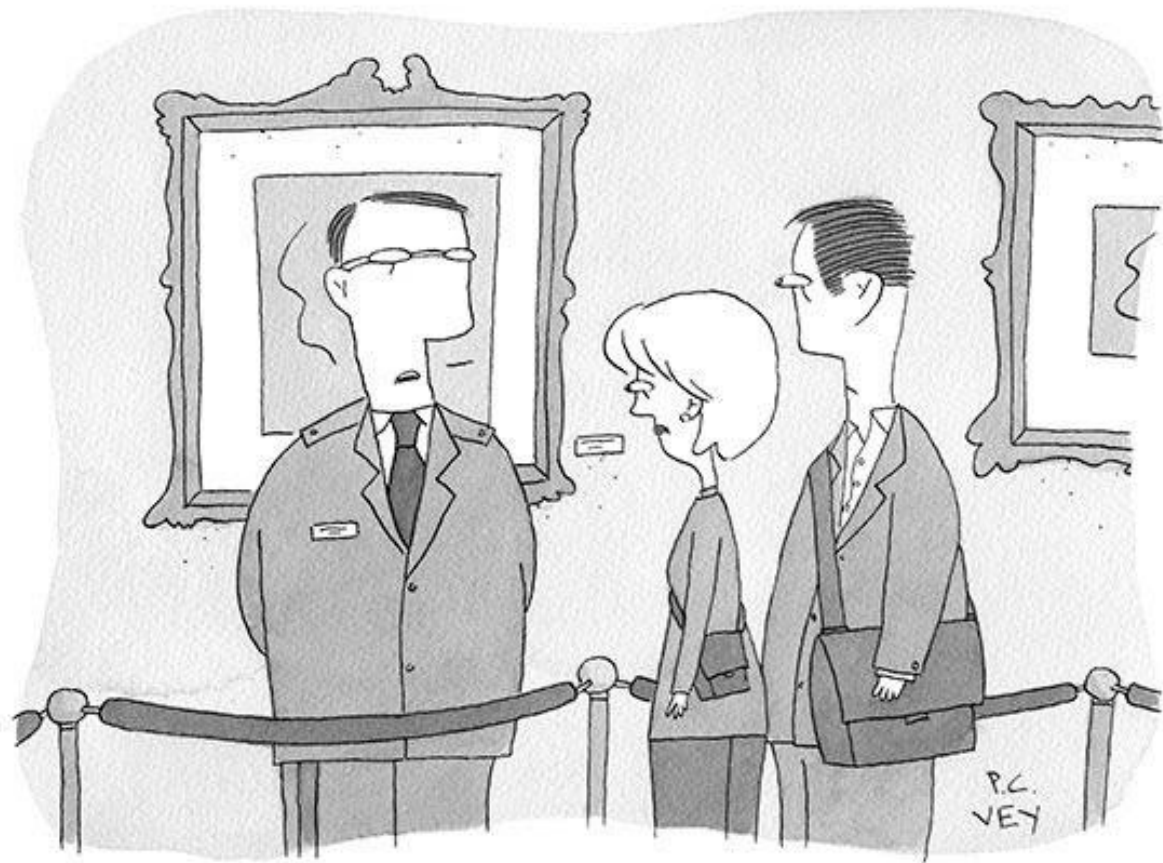
- Introduction/background
- Each participant given a randomly selected pavilion/location/space
- Given a location with that space (near, middle, far)
- Go to space without looking at anything else
- Spend specified period of time (90mins)
- Active engagement: Notate, document, capture, remembering: (drawings, notes, marks, words NOT COPYING - LIFE DRAWING)
- Return to group for immediate sharing responses / experiences

Giardini



Close Looking : 3 minutes





*“For a better look at the painting,
go to our Web site.”*



Close Looking
Nottingham

30th January 2018
Nottingham Contemporary



Close Looking – MFA student feedback Nottingham

My observation here is that in everyday life, we do not think about looking? I perceived it to be a learnt act that is taken for granted.

How often do we think about how we look? I know for myself that it is very rare thing to do, I don't think I ever have before.

My enquiry here may lead to a speculative notion, but I am thinking about trauma and where the role of 'the seer' is placed within a moment of visual enquiry or looking processes.



Close Looking – MFA student feedback Nottingham

.....But on the inconspicuous side of being, whereby you immerse yourself through the armament of your senses and the embracement of what is around, you may cease to be aware, and is at this point I find that seeing becomes truly possible



Close Looking – MFA student feedback Nottingham

Looked at a video for one hour

About half way through I felt physically uncomfortable: headache; hunger; sadness; being too hot; but after that the last 30 minutes was really positive. I think I must have broken through some resistance.



Close Looking – MFA student feedback Nottingham

I found staying with the video for an hour made a really big difference. I started to get quite deeply involved in the affect. The video was not about providing information, ie not didactic, but it was powerful as a good poem would be. I would have seen it as mediocre if I had followed my normal pattern of not spending time with the video. The time of looking was so important as I had chance to appreciate it.



Close Looking – MFA student feedback Nottingham

The predominant feeling was of ever increasing absorption in the video and respect for the depth of feeling and understanding of the artist in the issue.

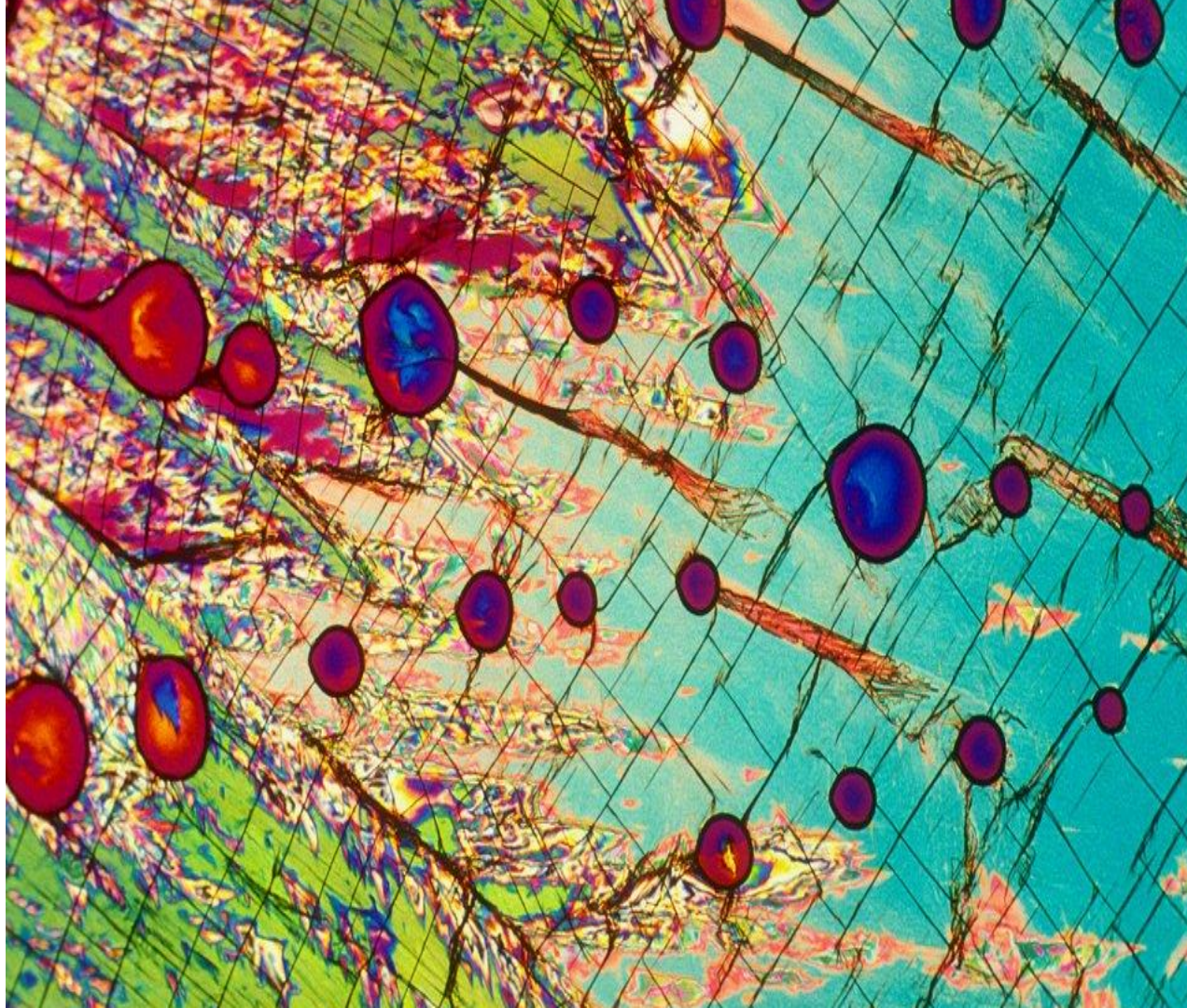
I will remember this encounter for a long time as its affect seems to have become embedded in me through the looking.



“I find it so elitist that this artist who spent his entire lifetime studying, thinking and making art would make something that I can’t understand in two seconds.”

Close **** recipe

- Introduction
- Select focus for a close encounter
- Determine boundaries (is it a page, space, specimen, object, diagram, action, legislation, etc)
- Spend specified period of time
- Active engagement: Notate, document, capture.
- Feedback



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Points for consideration & discussion for other disciplines :

Is it important to meaningfully slow down and establish a 'space' which will allow for attention to the activity of encountering?

Cultural issue of wanting to gain information without 'putting the time in'.

The difference between being given information and understanding it?

Simplicity of our *Close Looking* structure –What are the core fundamentals of your disciplines?

Could you use the 'Close *****' recipe?