

Expressing Meaning Through Art

Objective: To engage with and reflect on the ethical dimensions of the human experience through the exploration of Samuel Bak's paintings. There are three short essay options below. You will pick 2 out of the following 3 writing prompts. If you submit essays on all three, only the first two will be graded (though doing all three will ✨*dazzle*✨ me).

Due Date: The due date for this assignment is stated on Canvas. *Any submissions after this date will be subjected to a 10%-off-per-day penalty.*

Museum Visit: As a class, we will visit the Samuel Bak Museum in Aksarben. The address is [2289 S 67th St. Omaha, NE 68106](#). The chief curator, Alexandra Cardon, will lead us in a discussion of Bak's work and life. This information will help guide you as you view the many pieces that are on display.

Grading: The assignment is worth 50 points. Grades for each essay will depend on the thoughtfulness and depth of analysis. Additionally, the creativity and originality of your reflections and analysis of Bak's work will be key. Finally, the clarity of your writing is extremely important for my understanding of your essays.

Prompt 1:

- Choose two pieces of artwork from different styles, or time periods within the museum collection.
- Reflect on the diversity of artistic expression and its potential to convey different messages. Consider how cultural and historical contexts influence your interpretation of Bak's art.
- Distill your reflections and considerations into a 500 word short essay.

Prompt 2:

- Choose two pieces of artwork from different styles, or time periods within the museum collection. (If you are also doing Prompt 1, then you need to pick two *different* pieces for this assignment)
- Analyze how Bak's unique style and themes contribute to his narrative.
- Distill your reflections and considerations into a 500 word short essay.

Prompt 3:

- Watch [this](#) short explanation by Bak about his painting *The Warsaw Boy*.
- Examine and analyze *The Warsaw Boy* in the museum.
- Reflect on what Bak intended to convey with this painting and compare / contrast this with what the painting evokes in you.
- Distill your reflection into a 500 word short essay.