

Project B

“Gymnopedie No. 1: As Seen by Shy”

Instructions:

Design a project. Carry out the project.

With the project, illustrate how 20–21 Century music intersects with other arts.

Or

Illustrate how 20–21st century music intersects with other disciplines outside of the arts.

Perhaps you're tempted to write a paper for your project? Try to avoid acting on those feelings.

Be more creative. Create a project that is unique. Create a project that could only come from your personal experience with this music. Go ahead and be legendary if you like.

I know a professor who refers to this type of assignment as an Unessay. There may be some writing involved but it should not be an essay or paper.

Project Statement:

For this project, I decided to demonstrate how music literally is an art. When listening to “Gymnopedie No. 1” by Erik Satie for my Project A, I found myself traveling through a visual landscape in my own mind. My roommate and I laid on the floor and had the song on repeat as we described what color we imagined each note as. I felt restricted as I tried to identify and name every emotion that I felt while listening to the song, but the act of turning the song into art made me analyze and interpret the song in a whole different way.

I began this art piece on manuscript paper. I listened to each note and illustrated it as I heard it, but when I finished, I was extremely disappointed. It seemed as though I had just rewritten the song using color. I went to throw away everything when I saw the scrap paper that I used to clean my brush and doodled throughout the painting and I realized that this was what I saw when listening to the song. Some marks are just water, some are very pigmented and some are lighter. It was exactly what I was imagining in my mind.

I thought a lot before I decided to turn this in. Abstract art is hard to rationalize in an academic setting. All in all, I really wanted to express my feelings instead of illustrating them and I believe that I accomplished that with this piece. All in all, it doesn't matter how the paint is put on as long as something is said. So, here is “Gymnopedie No. 1: As seen by Shy”:

