



Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Scuola Politecnica e delle Scienze di Base



INTERNATIONAL MASTER DEGREE COURSE IN
DESIGN FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

fundamentals dbe

#1_Contemporary art and new challenges



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Contemporary art and new challenges

As known, figurative arts are considered among the highest expression of human beings capable to represent individual and collective symbols, values, feelings. In recent times interventions in the built contexts are more and more required, as they let people being actively part of the work, interacting with the artist's vision.

Environmental art is also apt to accompany and interpret processes of social and cultural transformations that affect the communities all over the world, to give shape to personal and collective identity, widely shared values, marginal cultures, contexts of inclusion and exclusion. Art is perceived not just as an individual expression to be displayed and enjoyed in the museums and art galleries. It is a challenging tool that involves, connects, educates people. This short video (<https://youtu.be/yBPm7DWrTbI>) presents the work of **Nancy Ann Coyne**, an American photographer with an international experience. The world is her home. And the world is in her work. In a recent project she displayed portraits of people from the different communities that live in Minneapolis on the walls of some of the suspended galleries that connect the city blocks. The result is that now bridges connect people and places, also symbolically. Her art, displayed in the public space, affects people's daily experience contributing to create a new shared space where everybody is represented and has the right to live. Furthermore, the interaction of traditional materials with the potential of **new digital technologies** is expanding the expressive potential of images and their attracting power. It requires an effort to connect "old" and "new" in the artistic practice, and an aptitude to manage and also to critically evaluate different skills, to accept new ways of artistic fruition. On 11 October 2022, at the New Port Street Gallery, **Damien Hirst** will provocatively destroy a thousand of his paintings, entrusting their memory to their "digital twins". **Artificial intelligence** generates images never seen before: new questions raise about invention and authorship. **Is it a revolution?**

Focus on

Nancy Ann Coyne is a designer, photographer and public artist. Her current work involves creating large-scale public artworks that expand the narrative qualities of documentary photography in the built environment.

Coyne utilizes publicly accessible architecture and natural light to create performative, interactive environments that redefine the public realm, providing experiences that heighten consciousness of shared spaces.

Speaking of Home, Nancy Ann Coyne, 2017



Short exercise

Recognize and analyze a work of environmental art in your City/Country. Make a picture of it to express the relationship between the art intervention, people and place. Output: a 3 pages (cm 25x25) pdf document composed by: cover page, 1 slide with your urban art picture, 1 slide with a short description of your subject.

To know more

Christiane Paul, *Digital Art*, 3rd ed., London; Thames & Hudson, 2015.

Melissa Gronlund, *Contemporary Art and Digital Culture*, London; Routledge, 2017.
https://books.google.it/books?id=6i0lDwAAQBAJ&printsec=copyright&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false