

Global Thinking Routines (response from groups), on February 1, 2017

From the choices, all five groups chose “Beauty and Truth” as their practice routine.

Group 1:

Object choice: Attributed to Pyara Singh, Processional Portrait of Prince Bhawani Singh of Sitamau, 1855, 2010.5

What went well in the discussion, using this routine? (Notes)

The first two questions were easily answered.

Just picked a good object [for this routine].

Good way to reign in discussion, using questions to redirect.

What were the challenges with using this routine? (Notes)

Started a cold open, not much talking at first, but discussion gains momentum as [we] move along.



Group 2:

Object choice: Unknown artist, Indonesia, Ganesha, 10th-11th century, 2003.198

What went well in the discussion, using this routine? (Notes)

Beauty: symmetry child-like, friendly, chubby, decorative lotus base, jewelry, headpiece, pose, and calm inner peace.

Truth: Human, elephant qualities seem real/lifelike, non-threatening/protector at beginning of events.

Yoga, modern connection/inner peace—pose and calm.

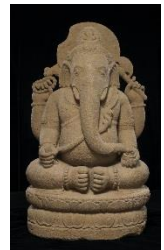
Beauty reveal truth—pearl.

There's violence in his origin story, axe and skull are harder to see.

What were the challenges with using this routine? (Notes)

Some questions are easier to answer.

Difficult to use on an object with limited knowledge.



Group 3:

Object choice: Shibata Zeshin, The Four Elegant Pastimes, pair of screens, second half 19th century, 2013.31.47.2

What went well in the discussion, using this routine? (Notes)

Asked question, “Can you find beauty?” and Group responded with “What is going on?” Group pointed out men and described. Asked questions, Did sword go through him? He’s drunk? Is she at a tea ceremony? Is that a dog?

Asked question “Can you find truth?” and Group responded “It takes time to be good at these pastimes?” and “You need all to be complete and educated?”

But what is truth? But don’t they mean philosophical truth? (Group seemed to question what/how are we defining this term “truth”?) Group responded, “Pleasure takes learning, too.” Facilitator, “But are they interacting?” Group responded, “He’s interacting with other figures.” Facilitator, “So what is pleasure? What makes it pleasurable?” Group responded, “Maybe dancing. Purpose may not be just pleasure but spiritually elevating.”

What were the challenges with using this routine? (Notes)

[Conversation seemed to be] stymied, so [facilitator] did more descriptive [questions].

“How might beauty reveal truth? Group responded, “Too heavy.” (Avoided answering). Artifice in beauty. This looks mannered to us. Beauty too important to them. What would viewing this make you feel is this screen was in your room?

How might beauty conceal truth? Group responded, “We don’t see ugliness. We see educated “higher class” of people. Swords—show underlying problems. How does this show structure of society? They look favored members of Court. How are these people supporting themselves?

(Group started asking questions. Group speculated.)

Group 4: (Group used a piece of contemporary art)

Object choice: Carla Hemlock, Boomin' Out, 2015, 2016.5.20

What went well in the discussion, using this routine? (Notes)

We [were] able to find examples of beauty and truth.

Pride, Patriotism, yet lack of acknowledgment.

What were the challenges with using this routine? (Notes)

Knowing and arriving at what was the Real concealed truth. Headless/abstract characters.

Group 5:

Object choice: Marc Riboud, Canteen for a Steel Mill, China, 1957, 2007.86.23

What went well in the discussion, using this routine? (Notes)

[We used] imagination and background information to construct possible stories.

Group discussion: Glasses—attracting/drawn to, is fed (but not much), not time, (only rice). Glasses are protective, [for] dangerous [work]. Coats, harsh conditions. They had a job. Slave labor; rushed to eat. Grasping. No conversations.

What were the challenges with using this routine? (Notes)

[Not sure if this was group response to this question, or just continuation of the discussion. KZ]

Confusing—routine question.

Not many details. Looks dismal, “real.”