

Spring 2009

Introduction to Visual Arts 1301 Journal of Images - Souvenir



By Patty Chung

Austin Community College

Professor Paula King

Souvenir

'Souvenir' is a word from French meaning something that you bring home as a memory reminder that somewhere you visited before, something that has sentimental value.

I was lucky enough to travel many places that allowed me to experience different cultures and meet different people. My collections of souvenirs belie the profound memory of my valuable experience. I would use my collection as a subject to show that something of sentimental value (souvenir).

These objects that now line the corners of my abode as dust-shrines, define the limits of my experience in other cultures -

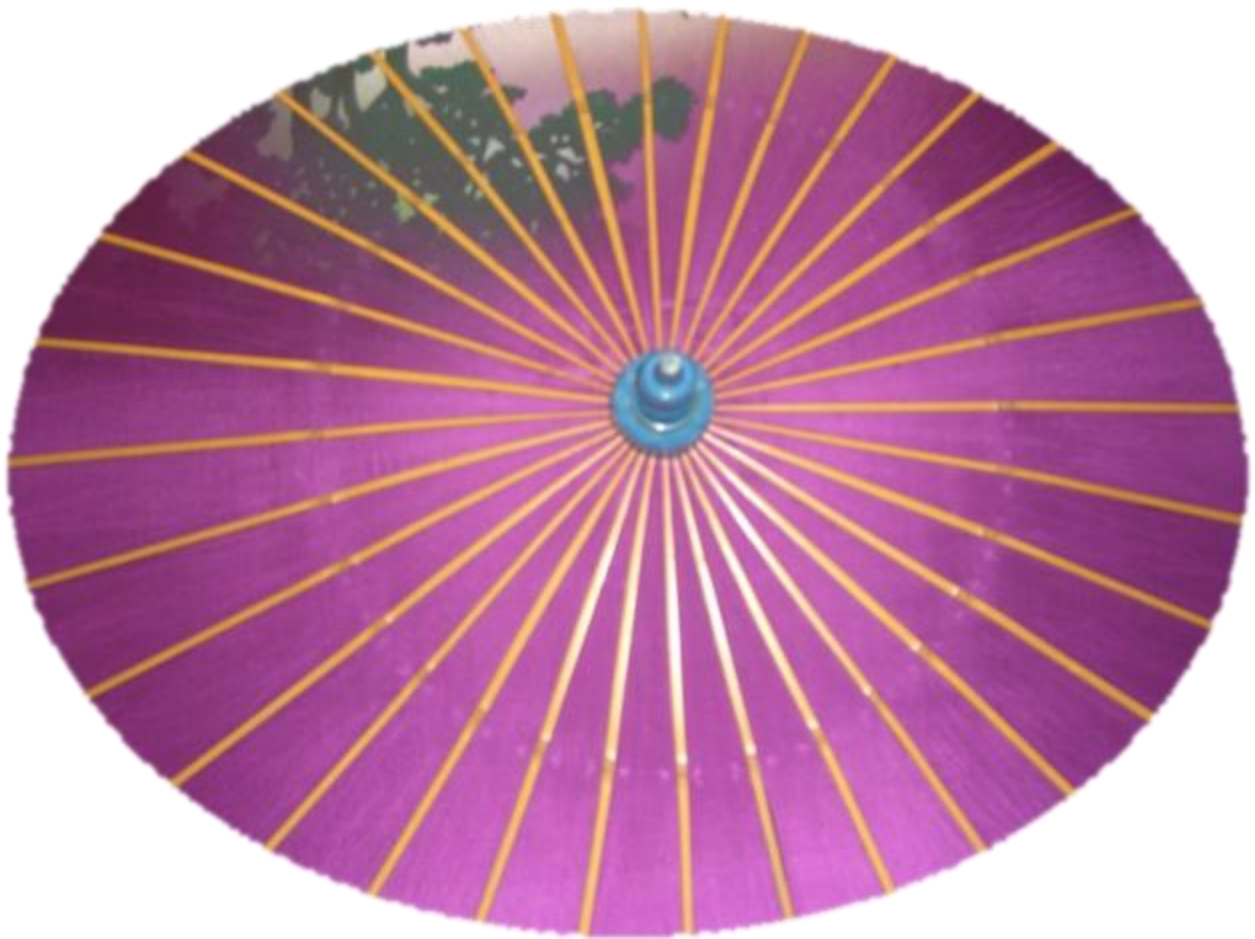
Even if from within my own China where I just did not get enough (Not enough experience and of course not enough souvenirs ;).

For the moment, I am waiting to be accepted into a nursing program and cannot afford it. I go far - but only in my dreams. I yarn to travel again - to breathe, to walk the places where these things were made.

My hope is to trigger a similar emotion in you.

Line

It was the *lines* of bamboo radiating from one point with the lining of silk that kept me from the rain when I was walking along the famous lake in Hangzhou China.



Color

Korea streets are lined with these dolls. Such color embedded in flour!



Shape

This little guitar reminds me of the place where it was from –Singapore.

On my mind, Singapore was in a ‘good shape’ under the rule of the governor, a very lovely place -clean and beautiful.



Form

When you twist the clay like so – you actually *deform* it a little – but in a way that extends the structure.



Texture

Amethyst, my favorite stone, with its royal purples yet the roughest texture of everything I have ever collected.



Value

Turtle goes slowly, but time goes fast.

It is time that I value here. It does probably serve as a good reminder.



Space

Incense coils go in here, the burned essence escapes the interior space through the charmed holes.



Unity

Unity is the thought that I wanted to take a whole set home!



Variety

I don't limit myself to just collecting one kind of things. I need *variety*.



Balance

This cup really does look like it is tipping over all the time. However, it was totally different feelings when the train on it kept me leveled when I was inside the inclined train climbing up the hill.



Emphasis

The red characters highlighted a famous city, Hakone in Japan.



Scale

Without something small, there is no reference to appreciate scale.



Rhythm

Rhythm, dance, one step two step, ok go... a progression of forms with anticipated repetition.



Movement

Petrified wood is probably LEAST associated with movement till you realize that every molecule in the tree has been replaced with minerals that had to move through rock to get there.



Index of Images

Line - Umbrella, Hangzhou (China)

Color - flour dolls, Korea

Shape - little metal guitar, Singapore

Form - flask, Hong Kong

Texture - Amethyst, Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona)

Value - Turtle Clock, Korea

Space - container for Incense coils, Unknown

Unity - a set of shot glasses, cups and mugs, Erie (Pennsylvania)

Variety - key holder, Canada; incense oil burner, Taiwan; magnet, Las Vegas; mug, Kansas; handcrafted angel, Erie; salt container, Colorado.

Balance - (inclined) mug, Lookout Mountain (Tennessee)

Emphasis - Key holder, Hakone (Japan)

Scale - wooden flask, Japan; shot glasses from San Jose (California)

Rhythm - mugs from Austin, Oklahoma, Atlanta, China

Movement - Petrified wood, Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona)