

## Assignment A2

# Design as Observation: Personal Collection

Collections help us to filter and make sense of the world. They are (or should be) an act of discovery. Through the act of collecting we develop a more critical eye. We compare and contrast, define patterns and anomalies, form judgements and develop preferences.

For this assignment I would like you to begin a new collection of something. It should be something physical and man-made, and ideally it should have a particular visual quality that intrigues you. It will help if your object is not overly complex (does not have too many component parts) and is relatively cheap to collect and/or easy to document (if it is large or environmental).

Some examples include: ticket stubs, joints, key holes, wheels, pens, cardboard boxes, postcards, bottles, buttons, receipts, bricks, arches, road signs, etc. Simpler items tend to make for more rewarding investigations. If you select an item that is fairly complex and multi-faceted like a shoe, focus on just one small part of it, and perhaps a part that you are less familiar with.

As your collection grows, become attuned to the similarities and differences among your specimens and aim for a wide variety.

### Part 1

For the next class, document at least 6 collection specimens in 3 different ways so that you have 18 images total (3 sets of 6 images). Print your images on 8.5x11 paper, 2 images per page (this will give you 9 pages total), and insert these pages into your 3-ring binder.

The goal is to decide on a method of documentation that best reveals the qualities within the object that you are interested in. This will vary depending on your object, but here are some means you might consider: xeroxing to highlight shape and contour, scanning (enlarging?) to reveal very precise detail, making a rubbing to emphasize texture, or using a camera if your object is large and/or environmental. If primarily using a camera, consider photographing your objects from different angles, at different times of day, or under different lighting conditions.

Lastly, write a short statement (approximately 200 words) explaining your interest in the collection you are starting. Print the statement on 8.5"x11" paper and add it to your binder.

### Part 2

Once you've determined the most interesting way of documenting your objects, you will pick one method and build your collection throughout the semester (culminating in 80-100 images).

### Part 1 due:

Wednesday, July 14

### Part 2 due:

Have 40-50 examples documented by July 21 (we will discuss them in class)

Have 80-100 examples documented by July 30