# Project 3: Autonomy



Nicole Eisenman, Beer Garden (2012–2017)

| Due date for Essay is: | Due date for all Creative Work is: |
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| **Weds May 13th 2026, 8:00pm** | **Thurs May 14th 2026, 3:20pm** |
| Submit essays on Canvas | Submit Research on Canvas; submit FINAL Art on Canvas |

## Final project description

This is our third project. At this point in the semester, and particularly with this final project, you must plan your work effectively. During the first two projects,

you came to understand more about how you work, how much time it takes, and what you need. This understanding of your own creative practice is crucial for your success in the course.

In your previous projects, Transparency and Space, you were given a theme to help you engage with them. You had the freedom to make the art you wanted in response to that theme, but not total autonomy because of the theme.

This project has a title, but DOES NOT have a theme. The project title is Autonomy. This title simply communicates that you have total autonomy in this project. It's your responsibility to decide on a subject area and the drawing you make for it. Be aware that you need to provide a solid rationale for your drawing. I expect rigor, research and genuine effort in your work. Lack of creative research will be visible in your drawing and we will hear it in your words. I want you to be proud of what you make and present.

This project should show evidence of development over time. There is plenty of time to complete the project well. All of the homework, the exercises and the projects this semester have prepared you to be able to complete the creative and written part of this final. You can use any tools and surfaces that are appropriate for your idea, and I encourage you to experiment as much as possible. Remember that making the first thing that comes to mind means you aren't engaging creatively, and you will produce poor drawings.

An important note about autonomy: having the freedom to make art about the subject(s) you are interested in can be difficult for some students. Some people need rigid structures. Here is a simple way of overcoming any hesitancy or worry about having so much freedom:

- Review your assigned creative homework descriptions, the project descriptions and the work you produced in response to those exercises and projects.
- The whole course has been designed to provide you with tools you can use to engage in your process.

The most significant difference in this project is that the submission includes an essay (described below). Be aware that it is required and is due the day before the critique.

## Critique

Your project is presented to the class in the critique form. Here is a guide to expectations for the final critique:

A. *Your trajectory through this subject* (for example, describe your learning this semester: what have you learned about drawing that you did not know before; how has that knowledge helped you develop and complete your project);

B. What artwork you have made (make sure you include things that you may not now be very happy with. It's crucial to include mistakes and failures because they are very helpful in providing contrasts and for you to articulate the decision-making process you used more clearly);

C. Why did you make this artwork (for example, is your work content-based, meaning that the tools and materials are a vehicle for the message, or is it much more about the materials and what you can do with them? What is it about these works that satisfy you?);



Kerry James Marshall Untitled (Stono Drawing), 2012

D. And why you chose these specific tools, surfaces & scale (this is similar to the points above but focused on the potential of the materials chosen. You can easily provide contrast with failures you produced or with other types of material tests).

E. Paying close attention to the points above will help you write your essay. But these are not paragraph descriptions for the essay. Any essay submission that treats the points above as a series of siloed paragraphs will be graded accordingly.

## Creative Practice submission requirements

1. A fully realized, completed artwork.
2. All supporting material: drawings, notes, clippings, creative research.
3. Photographs of your completed artwork for all three projects, in the assignment links on Canvas.

## Essay Description

*This is the part of the course that legitimates the core curriculum Artistic Analysis designation. Please take it seriously.*

*Essay/Reflection:* Reflection papers are intended to allow you space to think through an idea or set of issues and exemplify to the reader that you are a thoughtful, engaged student who possesses the ability to think deeply and articulate your thoughts cogently. You are all also familiar with persuasive essays, which are structured and intended to present a thesis and argue its validity. The written work you will submit for this course will be a blend of these two modes of writing. You are expected to:

1. Include your name and the date on your essay;
2. Write a minimum of four pages: 1.2 spaced, 11pt Helvetica font (the same formatting used in this document);
3. Your writing alone should still equal four pages, but with the inclusion of images your essay could easily be 8 pages. Please don't try to pad your writing by including images. That does not mean you write less! I will definitely be checking this requirement.

4. Refer to the artists/artworks/readings, explaining how the ideas discussed helped deepen your understanding of art and artists (you do not need to refer to all of the artists/artworks/readings, but certainly you should be able to refer to at least 3);
5. Include images of an artist's work. This will always help you explain its meaning and value for you.
6. Discuss the work you have made, and use the points above to help you articulate;
7. Use images of your own artwork (successes and failures) to help illustrate your methods and results, thinking, and decision-making processes. It may be necessary to provide a zoomed-in or close-up of a detail of your drawing to better connect your text to your meaning;
8. Save it as a WORD document. NOT a google doc, NOT a pdf, and upload it.

ALWAYS reach out to me with any questions or to request a meeting. I am here to help you. Don't struggle alone! Email me any questions.

## Rubric

This project is graded on the five criteria in the course rubric (Aim; Organization and Development; Method; Communication; Technique). Its weight in your course grade and the A–F descriptions are in the syllabus rubric. The essay is part of this project's grade.

Prof. Andrew Mount