



Ulrich Museum of Art

The XXIII Faculty Biennial ***It's All Part of the Process***

Artist Statement

Joshua A. Smith

In his book titled, *The Gift*, Lewis Hyde describes Art as a purely essential service in culture. The infinite forms of the Art Artifacts are 'Value Paid Forward' toward a shared experience so that we can be reminded, even in a divisive and diverse society, that we are all, at the core, equal and sharing in the same human experience.

“And this is what artists do in culture — artists provide that gift to the culture, so that people have something in common. If I like Mozart and you like Mozart then our capacity to [harbor hate for] one another has been diminished.”

There is no more divisive a space than the political realm, nor is there a social space more in need of the gift of commonality that Art provides.

My work aims to highlight potential solutions to fix and improve our eroded governmental institutions through the medium of poetic storytelling complimented by detailed illustrations in a shareable web-based format. The goal of these scrollable webpages is to delight and inform, building a beautiful journey illuminated by typographic & illustrated analogies into an accessibly more considered space.

This particular piece outlines the solution of integrating a Nation-Wide Voucher Program that would allow each voter the power to financially support political candidates of their choice. This would potentially clean the Murky waters surrounding campaign finance in an effort to bring the political realm to a more personal retail level and provide the motivational means to enact meaningful change in our legislature.