CMST 3300 – Visual Rhetoric Reaction Paper

Due: Thursday, March 26 (Please be prepared to share orally in class.)

A reaction paper might be thought of as similar to a conversation that you might have with someone after attending an event. Think about what kind of conversation that might be. In conversation you wouldn’t strictly say . . . “I loved it.” Period. You’d say why! Think about the WHY when writing this reaction paper.

Select a piece of art to perform a rhetorical analysis using Foss’s schema:

1. Describe the nature of the image (presented elements: size, media used or materials applied; suggested elements, ideas, or memes that work might evoke).
2. Discuss the function of the image (the way it works for the audience – not the purpose intended by the creator – anyway, how would you know?).
3. Evaluate the image by addressing the following questions:
   a. What is it about this specific piece of art that you respond to?
   b. Is the work telling a story? What is the story?
   c. What was your immediate response to the work? Did your response change after looking at the work longer?
   d. What does the work tell you about some larger idea – money, gender, culture, democracy, etc.?
   e. How do the materials and processes used to create this piece impact how these ideas are conveyed?
   f. What would you want the rest of the class to see that they might otherwise miss?
4. Please tie your reactions to specific ideas from the artwork, because analysis and interpretation depend upon specificity. Feel free to draw upon Beeson, chapter 9, as well as your experiences for support of your analysis.