

# SPOONS for Complaining

Prof. Lucy Louise Derickson

## Research Assignment Due:

See course Calendar

## Finished project, and Reflection Due:

See course Calendar



(left image) Maggie Ruane  
Montgomery College

(right image) Erin Cameron  
Montgomery College

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## Problem to Solve:

Fabricate a spoon whose design speaks to an issue you wish to complain about.

## Techniques Covered:

Die forming with the hydraulic press, sinking rivets, sawing, template design, texture

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## Project Proposal:

DUE: *See course calendar*

In the art world, artists often write grants in order to receive funding to produce their work. To receive a grant you need a well thought out plan. To this end, you will be writing a proposal that argues three possible solutions to this assignment, and shows that you understand the metals field by looking at examples of similar works. After you present three ideas to the instructor, one design will be approved for you to move forward.

Your Proposal will include:

- a. **HEADING:** Your name, class enrolled, semester, title of paper
- b. **VISUAL RESEARCH:** Find 6 examples of artist made spoons that you find visually appealing. Include the name of the artist.
- c. **IDEATION:** An explanation of 3 different topics you want to complain about for this project, and why you feel this is an interesting solution. What are you bringing attention to? One paragraph per idea.
- d. **SKETCHES/MODELS:** Draw 4 sketches or make 4 models of your design ideas. You should consider piercing, texture, size, etc. Take images of your sketches or models and add them to your proposal document.  
**Bring them to class on your presentation day as well!**

## Inspiration:

### Watch together in class and discuss:

- PBS Art Assignment: *The Art of Complaining, The Guerrilla Girls*  
<http://www.theartassignment.com/assignments/the-art-of-complaining>

For this project you are being asked to use the format of a spoon, to complain about something you feel strongly about. Consider what the Guerrilla Girls discussed in the video. Many art movements, and individual artworks are the result of a very strong **reaction to the world**. Consider one small aspect of a larger issue, or use issues that you deal with personally. These could be pet peeves, or little disputes between you and one other person.

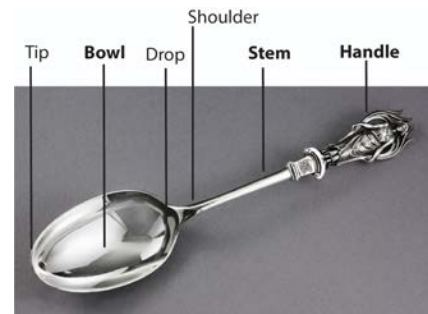
**Your challenge will be to make your statement visually, through the fabrication of an object.**

You will need to consider how you can utilize the specific format of a spoon to communicate your complaint.

Your spoon does not need to literally function as a spoon, you can consider it a sculptural spoon.

### Consider the three parts of the spoon:

1. **The Bowl:** this part will be made by forming flat sheet (sinking then blocking)
2. **The Handle:** This will be the part you will make using the Hydraulic Press
3. **The Stem:** This is the piece that joins the bowl and the handle. You will utilize riveting to join your three parts



### Questions to guide you:

- What is the silhouette of your spoon?
  - What various layers could you rivet together?
  - Is there a specific food to eat with this spoon?
  - What setting does your spoon belong to? A fancy dinner set? picnicware? in outer space? Haunted graveyard?
  - What style of spoon makes the most sense with your message? Soup spoon? Baby spoon? Measuring spoon? Scoop or ladle?
  - How will people engage with the spoon? Is there a unique way to hold it?
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## Submitting your project: Grading/requirements

Category	Grading Criteria
<b>Research and Planning</b> 20 pts (graded separately)	Complete and submit your project proposals, including all criteria, to be discussed with the instructor.
<b>Reflection Worksheet</b> <i>Self Analysis</i> 10 pts	Complete the Spoon Reflection document in the OneDrive folder. (Your reflection answers will determine how you are graded in other categories).
<b>Conceptual Investigation</b> <i>Artist Statement</i> 20 pts	You must explain your idea and how it connects to the assignment prompt on the reflection document. (This is your artist statement.)  More points will be earned if your concept is unique, creative and/or engaging.
<b>Design and creativity</b> <i>Problem Solving</i> 20 pts	You must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilize the form of a spoon, somehow.</li> <li>2. Use at least 1 hydraulic pressed form, from a die you made.</li> <li>3. Use significant sawing and piercing.</li> <li>4. Use textured surfaces in thoughtful ways.</li> <li>5. Use finishing techniques (buffing/ patina).</li> <li>6. Use an original design (no cliché or copyright).</li> </ol>
<b>Craftsmanship</b> <i>Technical Development</i> 40 pts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Edges and non-textured surfaces are filed and sanded to 600 grit (lines consistent).</li> <li>2. Rivets are executed correctly, clean heads.</li> <li>3. Spoon blank has been formed and smoothed.</li> <li>4. Pressed form is clean and has been attached well.</li> <li>5. Finishing techniques (buffing/ patina) done correctly, and sealed correctly.</li> </ol>
<b>Critique</b> <i>Leadership and Critical Analysis</i> 10 points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You must be on time to critique.</li> <li>2. You must contribute to the class discussion.</li> </ol> <p>*If your work is not complete, it is important that you still come to the critique and make verbal comments.</p> <p>Late work is subject to the late work policy explained in the course syllabus.</p>

# Spoon project Timeline

Plan to be working on this project outside of class time as well.  
Either in open studio, or at home (if possible)

WEEK 1	Research and models due (discuss with instructor)  <b>By end of week:</b> Collect materials for matrix die Lay out template for matrix die, begin sawing
WEEK 2	<b>By end of week:</b> Complete matrix die, and pressed form (remember to texture metal before forming)
WEEK 3	<b>By end of week:</b> All pieces sawed out, textured, and edges filed/sanded clean Spoon bowl formed Rivet holes planned out and drilled
WEEK 4	<b>By end of week:</b> All pieces cleaned (non-textured parts sanded to 600) All finishing (polishing and patina) Set rivets
WEEK 5 Project Due at the start of class.	<b>Critique:</b> <b>BRING YOUR SPOON, IN AN APPROPRIATE SIZED BOX</b> <b>Be on time!</b>