

Public Abstract

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Nostalgia is widely experienced phenomenon in the United States, and nostalgic feelings often occur as a reaction to objects or scenarios that seem familiar. These feelings, however, do not necessarily lead to informed or thoughtful action. Like any impulse, nostalgia should be carefully considered before one acts upon it by following traditions, yielding to sentiments, or relying on memories.

Many contemporary artists address issues related to the experience of nostalgia, such as idealization, memory, tradition, and the meaning embedded in found objects. The artwork discussed in this document, including that of the author, deals specifically with what will be termed The Problems of Nostalgia, and contains commentary on the aforementioned issues.