

Bob Trotman. American, 1947- *Cover Up* 2008

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I chose to go to the Mint Museum of Art and Draft and Design that is located in uptown Charlotte. The museum was filled with sculptures, paintings, drawings, and digital art. What surprised me the most about the museum is the digital art. There was one section of the museum that was a room with a big theatre screen that played a mesmerizing 3D image. I was not expecting to see digital images in an art museum. I had always thought of art as sculptures and paintings. It's not like I had never seen 3D images before. But, I had never considered the fact that art can be created through the computer as well. Although, the digital images are what surprised me the most, the sculptures are what my eye was drawn to. I was drawn to the sculptures that were questionable and told a story. I didn't quite have the same reaction to some of the sculptures that were plain and had no meaning. Maybe they were there so that I could find my own meaning, but the sculptures that looked more than just a wood carving is what made me interested to learn more.

The one work of art that caught my attention was a sculpture designed by Bob Trotman in 1947 that is known by the name *Cover Up*. It is a sculpture carved into four pairs of legs as a tarp is draped over the other half of the bodies. It creates a sense of mystery because there seems to

be no reasoning why these children are “covered up.” The sculpture is full of neutral colors such as nude, brown, and black. It is very life-like and it gives a sense of realism for the viewers. The sculpture is carved so perfectly that it is as if there truly are children underneath the tarp.

There are many vertical lines in the sculpture that help tie it together and allows it to be three-dimensional. Three-dimensional often applies to the virtual design of an object. It allows for others to see how certain components fit together geometrically. The shapes that are formed in this sculpture come from the lines and the three-dimensional aspect. The shapes are also formed by the way the light inside of the museum was reflecting off of the sculpture. The light provides for more of a defined effect to the piece of art.

This sculpture can be determined as expressionism. It stresses the importance of the sculpture through communication of ideas in feelings while being convincing in a forceful manner. Bob Trotman was aware that his dark vision didn’t necessarily tie to the recent cultural and economic events, but it projected themes that allowed the meaning of the sculpture to remain dynamic and open-ended.

Trotman created a series of sculptures called *Business as Usual* that was divided into three subsections: *Committee*, *Cover Up*, and *Chorus*. *Cover Up* examines the psychology of everyday life for people. I was drawn to this piece of art because of the mystery feeling it gave. When you looked at it, you began to wonder what the meaning behind that piece of art was. It allowed for the meaning to be twisted and wide-spread.

### References

VantagePoint VIII: Bob Trotman- Business as Usual. (n.d.). Retrieved April 06, 2016, from <https://www.mintmuseum.org/art/exhibitions/detail/vantagepoint-viii-bob-trotman-business-as-usual/>