Series of Six – Variations on a Single Theme

Concept: The objective is to select an image that is sufficiently complex enough to interest you through six states or alterations. Create a series on a single theme that moves through transformations of some kind – technical alterations from piece to piece, conceptual changes, or time lapsed images. Relate them to each aesthetically, and/or try combinations of several of these ideas.

Vocabulary:
Thematic - Reference to one or more themes which may determine choice or ordering of subject matter, or works displayed in an exhibition.
Chronology - The arrangement of events in the order in which they occurred in time; sequential order. Or, a list, a survey, or exhibition, which is sequenced in this way.
Sequence - An order in which one thing follows another; a linear arrangement; a successive arrangement.

Art Historical Reference:
Monet, Claude (1840-1926). French Impressionist painter. He is regarded as the archetypal Impressionist in that his devotion to the ideals of the movement was unwavering throughout his long career. From 1890 he concentrated on series of pictures in which he painted the same subject at different times of the day in different lights—*Haystacks* or *Grainstacks* (1890-91) His series of haystacks shows noticing how every aspect of the scene was altered in accordance with the changing light. This realization was to become an obsession in his later years. In his final years he was troubled by failing eyesight, but he painted until the end. He was enormously prolific and many major galleries have examples of his work.

Jennifer Bartlett
Coming to the spotlight in 1976 with her serial work, Jennifer Bartlett has gone on to receive international acclaim for her work. She is noted for taking a theme or image and repeating it in a variety of ways – concepts, techniques, and symbols that reflect and even exhaust all the possible interpretations of that thing. She looks a thing over in detail before she is finished with its interpretation. Chronological sequencing is a devise she uses to underscore her imagery – times of day, seasons, and multiple viewpoints all ply a part of her investigations. The passing moment is reviewed in a new way, although the concept is readily seen portrayed by Monet over 100 years.

David Hockney
Hockney experimented with both with large composite photographs and with works made of paper pulp impregnated with color – see the Paper Pools series From 1982 Hockney explored the use of the camera, making composite images of Polaroid photographs arranged in a rectangular grid. Later he used regular 35-millimetre prints to create photo collages, compiling a 'complete' picture from a series of individually photographed details.

Procedure:
1. Use any surface - 12” x 16”
2. Apply paint in any manner suitable to the subject of your choice. If desired, explore mixed media.

Consider the subject in the following ways as a possible solution:
1. Vary the size and viewpoint throughout the series of the same object or scene.
2. Change the techniques in each artwork. Alter the image with each technique.
3. Select a color problem to solve. For example choose high key color for one, complementary colors to another, following with analogous color scheme, monochromatic, split compliment and a prima scheme.
4. Imitate a style, such as photorealism for one, abstraction for another, the cubists, impressionist, etc.
5. Choose a concept. How can we deviate from the original and still relate in concept? Example: Emphasize the following art elements in each one separately, using the same subject matter or variations of the same subject matter.
   - Line quality dominant
   - Shape and space emphasis by omitting detail
   - High contrast in value to emphasize form
   - Highly textured surface
   - Pattern dominant

4/18 - Concept Due + Related works in Journal
4/25 - #1 Due
5/2 - #2 Due
5/9 - #3 Due
5/16 - #4 Due
5/23 - #5 Due

FINAL EXAM DAY – Series of 6 DUE

Rubric 100 points each piece

_____ Concept/Consistency in Subject Matter
_____ Technique/Paint Quality
_____ Composition
_____ Craftsmanship