

WEEK ONE

1/10/06

Nancy Wynn: “just answer the question” was the T-shirt of the day. My choice was based on the hearings of Samuel A. Alito, Jr. My first comment was the simple reading of the phrase outloud by my mother. A verbal reading aloud is always a good start. Wonderful conversation with a fellow artist at our reception at Clare Gallery. Jeff engaged in dialogue and expanded on the visual importance of the Hartford Courant’s front page photo. His critique was great, “the structure and viewpoint of the photo really defined the historical moment.” Nice comment Jeff! We both agreed that the hearings for a Supreme Court Judge are an extremely serious matter.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “pay attention”, all day at work and at a 50th birthday party during the evening hours. During school, a few colleagues asked me what was with “pay attention” on my shirt. I told them about the art piece I was participating in and they were very interested and thought it was a great idea. At the party, several people asked me about my shirt, I explained the piece. We were all sitting around the table throughout the night and if people lost track of the conversation they would say “PAY ATTENTION”! It was quite humorous and kept the piece involved throughout the night.

Christine Gerber: Today I wore “Question Everything” and no one commented or asked about the T-shirt.

1/11/06

Nancy Wynn: “Greed kills.” was my choice today. My choice was based on a New York Times’ year-long examination into diabetes. Very telling investigation revealed today. Ventured out to the postoffice, grocery shopping and to a University College basketball game. Comments, questions and/or dialogue were not to be found today.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore the shirt “pay attention” for the second day in a row. My students are in exams and I thought it was fitting to wear the phrase. I did not get any response from my students, but a colleague inquired about the shirt. She first asked me to turn towards her to read the shirt, read the phrase out loud and noticed my sister created it. I explained the art piece I was participating in and she was very interested.

She commented on how some Kenneth Cole ads, magazine and billboards, use words and phrases that can be interpreted in multiple ways. We talked about how I had to pick out my outfit based on what I wanted to say with words rather than color, pattern, texture, etc...

Christine Gerber: Well today I decided to wear “Pay Attention”. One assistant teacher at school said, “Your shirt is so funny. I love it.” At the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, another teacher, who passed me with her class, said, “I need your shirt.”

1/12/06

Nancy Wynn: “Pay attention.” was anyone today? Ventured to Yale to work on research. Walked around campus and New Haven, talked to many in the Library and at the Yale British Art Museum. No comments. It will be interesting to see, during this process of performance, how many strangers ask vs. people you know.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I chose to wear “Stand for Something.” A fellow colleague at school commented that she liked my walking billboard. The plumber in school asked me what I was standing for, I told him things I believe in. I asked him what he was standing for, he just laughed. Another colleague laughed when he saw my shirt, and said I like your shirt, I said what do you stand for, he said for making it thru tomorrow (our last day of exams).

Christine Gerber: I am wearing “Just Answer the Question”. The same teacher who thought yesterdays shirt was funny today asked what the shirts are all about. I told her they are a performance art exhibit and I choose a different one each morning depending on what I am thinking about. She then said, “Oh so is this one about Alito?” I told her it was and she was the only person in school who has commented or asked about the shirt. Then, another teacher walking in and asked, “So what is the question?” I told her it is any question and I wore it in response to the Alito hearings.

Later a student said, “Just answer the question?” with a questioning voice. I said, “What do you think it means and she looked at me and said simply, “it means just answer the question.”

At a lunch meeting, several teachers commented on the shirt and asked what it meant. I told them I wore it in response to the Alito hearing and I want him to answer the questions directly. There was a collective “Ahhh” Then one women said, “His poor wife, having to sit through all of that.” Again a collective “Yeah, it’s all over the news.” Unfortunately I wasn’t able to continue the conversation because our meeting started. Finally, when I went to pick up my students many of them said, “I like your shirt” One boy came up to me and said, “I really like this shirt and the one you wore yesterday”

I asked what he liked about them and he said “I really like what they say.” I then asked why he liked the saying and he said he didn’t know so I asked him to think about it and let me know.

During another class meeting, one 2nd grade girl asked me where I got my t-shirts. I told them about the project. This sparked an in-depth discussion about t-shirts with sayings on them. The boy who previously said he liked them but didn’t know why said, “It says something you want to say, but instead of having to say it people just read it.” Another girl asked why we were talking about shirts and one classmate replied that it was because someone asked about it. After many kids shared their stories about shirts they have or family members have that say something, one boy said, “They tell people how you are feeling or what you are thinking. Like ‘Life is Good’ usually shows something that happens in life.”

Later in the day, several adults read the quote “Just Answer the Question”, but did not comment further. At the end of the day a parent said she really liked the shirt and asked why I was wearing it. She thought it was a unique idea and was curious if the artists were local and where the exhibit is being shown.

On a personal note, I was struck by the curiosity of my 2nd graders and their open-mindedness, unlike many of the adults who rarely asked. What does that say about children and adults? Something to consider.....

1/13/06

Nancy Wynn: Well, it was Friday the 13th and nothing strange happened. I wore “Stand for something” in reference to many things but my

WEEK ONE

focus was on the Alito hearing. Jim, a fellow professor, ask me about the artwork, the exhibition and what T-shirt I had chosen today. Working with my intern, Shakeema, we discussed feminism and the Alito hearing. Especially the importance of asking tough questions of Sam Alito Jr., no matter who cries. We both agreed that Mrs. Alito’s tears were unfortunate, in reference to the position of women. It only seemed to perpetuate the misguided notion that women are weak and too emotional therefore one must tread lightly.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I have decided to wear blue jeans and a long sleeve T-shirt under my white T-shirt each day. I only give thought to the word phrase each day rather than any other article of clothing. Today, I wore “just answer the question”, in response to the Alito trials. One of my male students asked me if I slept somewhere last night. He noticed I was wearing basically the same outfit as the day before, blue jeans, white T-shirt and the same orange long sleeve shirt. I told him I slept at home last night and that part of my outfit had changed. I was wearing a different white T-shirt with a new phrase on it. He said “oh”. I think he would have been more interested in knowing where I had slept the night before.

Christine Gerber: Yesterday I wore “Pay Attention” because of the recent stem cell research hoax in South Korea. Unfortunately, no one made any comments about the shirt.

1/14/06

Nancy Wynn: Going to the post office and waiting in line with 15 people is always interesting; especially when you are wearing a T-shirt that states “Question everything.” The gentleman in front of me started a conversation by asking “after you’ve asked the question what do you do?” I told him, “try to make a difference.” We then proceeded to discuss how one person can make a difference and our country’s state of affairs. He was very interesting to talk with and had a good handle on current issues. Later in the day, I bumped into Rodger, a fellow member of the Clare Gallery committee. We discussed the art piece and my choice for today. I was having trouble hearing him and kept asking him questions to better understand our conversation. He stated, “ you do question everything.”

WEEK ONE

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Useless? Use less.” Since I was on Cape Cod I thought it was appropriate. There is much debate over the possibility of installing wind mills to generate power in the Nantucket Sound. However, I did not venture out much, therefore no comments. I did see a fellow art participant, Christine, and we talked about our week’s involvement in the piece.

Christine Gerber: I wore the shirt “Stand for Something”, but no one commented on it.

1/15/06

Nancy Wynn: Wearing “Useless? Use less” was my comment to my son Stephen’s request to go to the mall area twice in a 24 hour period. No other comments during the day.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Useless? Use less” again. No comments.

Christine Gerber: I was home working on reports all day so there is nothing to report.

1/16/06

Nancy Wynn: Today is Martin Luther King’s Birthday. I have chosen to wear “Stand for Something” in reference to his memory. It is a very cold and blustery day. Did venture out for errands, but I have to admit the coat did stay on most of the time. No comments.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore, “Question Everything.” Didn’t go to many places and take off my coat, unfortunately, no comments.

Christine Gerber: I was again working on reports all day so there was no dialogue with anyone.

1/17/06

Nancy Wynn: “Greed kills.” was my statement for the day. It was in reference to the impoverished peasants of China. Buying things made in China (most everything) is supporting the Chinese government and world-wide corporations that work together to make mega profits. It is misguided to think that it helps the impoverished people of China. No one commented.

Kelly Wynn Burns: “Greed Kills.” A student asked me why I was wearing this shirt. I told her I was partaking in a six week art piece and I felt like wearing this shirt today due to the war in Iraq and all the death it is causing. No response. Another teacher told me she like my shirt because it was to the point. She like that. I was wearing a green shirt underneath and she thought that symbolized life. She wondered if I planned it. I said no.

Christine Gerber: Today, I wore “Stand for Something.” No adults commented, but my students ran up to me after lunch and said, “Which one are you wearing today?” Several students read it, but their interest faded soon after that.

1/18/06

Nancy Wynn: “Greed kills.” was my choice again. Late on Monday night there was a Frontline documentary about the private security companies over in Iraq. It was an alarming article about privatizing security and the military. Once again our government is choosing the private sector over other solutions. Went out to dinner. Our waitress did not directly comment on the T-shirt but did decide to comment on Johnny Damon’s jump to the Yankees—since my husband was wearing his Yankees hat. “What is another 10 million? How much does any one need? That was purely greed on his part.” I think the shirt helped spark the dialogue.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Our leaders have failed us.” One student asked me why I was wearing the shirt, I told him I was concerned about our state’s administration with campaign finance, the DOT bid riggings being investigated and other leaders in our state being investigated for fraudulent activity. He said, “oh”. A colleague asked me what my shirt said, I showed her, she said, “you’ve got guts.”

WEEK TWO

Christine Gerber: I wore “Useless? Use Less.” Many of my students commented on the shirt or asked what it said. A colleague read it, then commented “What a great message. I think it’s so true.” That then prompted a discussion about bumper stickers and T-shirts that convey important environmental and/or political messages. Later, at lunch, another colleague asked about it. I told them about the project. They then asked what I was trying to use less of. This sparked a discussion about gas prices and then led to recycling.

1/19/06

Nancy Wynn: Well, sitting in the dentist and the hairdresser chair conversation takes place. The two places have very different cultures and I enjoy both of them. I wore “Question Everything.” in response to a poll the Washington Post recently conducted that found 51% of Americans are o.k. with NSA’s spying techniques. They believe it is in the interest our nation’s security. OH COME ON!!!!!! Why was I not polled!!! I was in disbelief that we have fallen into such a condition of apathy. My discussions at both places were engaging. They were not apathetic.

Kelly Wynn Burns: “Greed kills.” was the shirt I chose. One colleague of mine walked by me in the hallway and read the shirt outloud then stated, “good shirt!” Two other colleagues read the shirt outloud, but no comments.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Question Everything.” Some colleagues and some students asked what shirt I was wearing today, but it did not prompt further discussion.

1/20/06

Nancy Wynn: “Pay attention.” was my shirt. Pat and I went to visit the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. Great exhibition on Shrines by Mary Billingsley. Stunning!!! We discussed the plight of women worldwide in reference to water rights. Also discussed the art piece in general. While shopping at a store going out of business, the owner read the shirt, asked about it, and stated that she needed to pay attention to her task of ringing me out. Nice woman.

Kelly Wynn Burns: “Pay attention.” was worn and the same colleague that commented the day before walked by again and stated, “Pay attention, you’re wearing some really good shirts lately.”

Christine Gerber: I wore “Just Answer the Question” and no one asked or commented on it.

1/21/06

Nancy Wynn: “Pay attention.” was worn in reference to my 15 year-old son. I seem to have to say things at least 10 times before he fully understands various concepts. Teenagers! Went to a basketball game and discussed the art project with one of my best friends, Lisa. Nice conversation. Later at dinner, her daughter Sarah, was very conversant about the T-shirt. She wanted to know if I made it and what the project was all about. She really understood the project and its importance. She is in 5th grade.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Did not go out much today. But when I did, I was always wearing my coat.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Pay Attention” out on some errands, but no one made any comments.

1/22/06

Nancy Wynn: Yesterday, my husband and I discussed the many issues where decisions have to be made and people need to get involved. I chose “Stand for Something.” in reference to taking a stand, hopefully on the side of social responsibility and human dignity. Doug, a fellow Clare Gallery committee member, discussed the art piece after Mass. Interestingly, the homily was also about taking a stand. I like when events happen synchronously.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Stand for something.” My mother and I visited my aunt and uncle at the Cape on Sunday and as I was greeted by my aunt and she said, here is my niece standing for something. We went into the livingroom and had a wonderful conversation about the art piece and the frustration we all have regarding many people choosing to not stand for something. We discussed how people may be aware of issues regarding politics, laws, environment, etc....and they don’t speak up and try to make a difference. We also discussed how many people choose not to be aware of what is going on in the country and world.

WEEK TWO

Christine Gerber: Today, I wore “Our Leaders Have Failed Us.” for the whole day, but again, no one made any comments.

1/23/06

Nancy Wynn: “Our leaders have failed us.” is my choice today. I chose the message in response to the investigation revealed today that the major oil companies are suspected in underpaying royalties to the American taxpayer. We are talking billions here folks! Our current admin has helped this fleecing along. Later in the day, met with Justine Good to discuss the art piece, current social issues, and politics. He has decided to join the performance. He will start tomorrow.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Stand for Something.” again. No comments.

Christine Gerber: As Bush began a week-long tour of the country defending his domestic spying program, I chose to wear the shirt “Our leaders have failed us.” One teacher asked which shirt I had on today and thus began an interesting dialogue about the current leadership being “Big Brother” and how disgraceful it is that something as serious as spying on American citizens isn’t generating more outrage. Have we, as a people, become so brainwashed that Bush may actually convince people that spying without a warrant is justified????

WEEK THREE

1/24/06

Nancy Wynn: “Pay attention.” was chosen in reference to the first day of classes. While teaching three different classes during the day, the senior class was the only class that made reference to the shirt and the art project. Unfortunately, because of the material that needed to be covered, dialogue was limited. Perhaps on Thursday.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Question Everything.” As I walked down the hall a colleague read my shirt aloud and said, “Question Everything, what is with these shirts you are wearing, are you turning into a rebel?” I didn’t say anything.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Stand for Something.” No adults at school commented on the shirt, but several of my second graders asked what shirt I had on today, read it, and then asked if I had worn that one before.

1/25/06

Nancy Wynn: Was not feeling great today, so I did not venture out.

Kelly Wynn Burns: I wore “Just answer the question.” I went into the office and the copier tech read my shirt aloud. She read it again and said it louder. At lunch, a colleague, Karen, asked me if this was going to be my outfit for the year? I told her 6 weeks, we discussed how the project was going and I told her how it is difficult to participate in it at times, but that I was enjoying being a part of the project. I like speaking up in my small way. We talked about how so many people don’t know about what is going on in the country or they are aware of issues and they don’t speak up.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Useless? Use Less.” in an effort to remind myself and others to be conscience about how many unnecessary items we use each and every day. Unfortunately, no one commented or asked about the shirt.

Justin Good: I was wearing the “Our leaders have failed us.” shirt for my Ecology of Perception class. A student at the Hartford Art School/University of Hartford said, “did you make that shirt?” “no Nancy Wynn did,” I said. “oh I know her, I thought you had made it because it seems like something you probably believe.” (I explain the idea). I said, “well, what do you think?” Everyone automatically

agrees and we had a short discussion about the extent of political corruption.

Later, while teaching at Uconn, I put up a picture of Bush as Hitler to talk about charged images. Two students got very offended and upset by the comparison of Bush to Hitler. They stated, “you know, about 50% of the population voted for Bush! It’s not right to compare him to Hitler, that’s too extreme, too dangerous.” I said, “why, what’s wrong with the comparison? Is it dangerous because some people might question authority?” They said, “yes.” The class got pretty charged and I realized how politically sheltered a lot of the students are. I was, of course, wearing the T-shirt the whole time, but no one commented on it, although they were surely thinking about it.

1/26/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Stand for something.” in reference to the Senate’s deliberations on Alito. Taught today and a former student, Fiona, stopped by my office to chat. The first discussion we engaged in was about the T-shirt and the art piece. She stated that it was very interesting. She liked that it was personal and public at the same time. She liked that different interpretations are bound to happen and that in itself is cool.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Stand for Something.” One of my colleagues saw my shirt early in the morning and he read my shirt aloud as he has done for the last week. He said, “Where are you getting these shirts?” I told him I was participating in an art piece. The bell was going to ring so I didn’t have time to explain it all. I am sure we will talk again.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Our leaders have failed us.” as a way of protesting President Bush’s domestic spying program and the upcoming confirmation of Samuel Alito. No adults asked about the shirt, but some of my students asked what it said. I find it interesting that people will read the shirt and maybe ask what it says, but rarely engage in a further conversation. Especially my colleagues who see me everyday and know about the piece.....

Justin Good: I was wearing the “Useless? Use less.” shirt at the local coffee shop in Chester, Simons, where I hang out a lot. Someone said,

“hmm, Useless? Use less of what?! I’m poor! I don’t have enough \$ to use a lot.” This led into a discussion about ecofootprints and how much energy americans use.”

1/27/06

Nancy Wynn: Civic Design was this morning. Wore “Pay attention.” My design interns asked me if I was wearing the T-shirt for them, to pay attention. I said, “No, but I had worn it on Tuesday for my students.” I told them it was in reference to the lead prosecutor, of the Abramoff Trial, being offered a job by the Bush Administration to be a Judge. Wow, Karl Rove that was a good one. The students had never heard of the trial or Jack Abramoff. I said, “Come guys, pay attention!” During class, we had a great discussion about our potential futures.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Greed kills.” A student said she LOVED my shirt. Another student of mine, I have had all year, asked me if I was going to be wearing these shirts all year. He has talked to me before about the sayings on my shirt. I said I would be wearing them until Feb vacation. He was shocked I would be wearing them that long. We talked about the piece and I referred him to the write up on Nancy’s website. I have it printed in my classroom. I am sure we will continue to talk about the shirts and why I am wearing them in the next few weeks.

Christine Gerber: I chose to wear “Pay Attention.” for a myriad of reasons, but mainly because of the power the Bush administration has. My principal looked at the shirt, laughed, and said, “What a funny shirt.” Some of my students asked about it. One said, “Miss Gerber you don’t even have to say to someone ‘Pay Attention,’ you could just point to your shirt.” Another student said, “No one’s paying attention even though your shirt says ‘Pay Attention.’” I don’t think he realized what a profound statement that actually was.

Justin Good: Today I’m wearing the “Just answer the question.” tee at the breakfast place that Jen and I go to all the time, Maria (who runs the place with her partner Kristen) looks at the tee with a wiseass glare and asks “what question?” I say, “whether or not you promise to defend the constitution.” She states, “no way! tear it up.”

WEEK THREE

1/28/06

Nancy Wynn: Going to one’s town transfer station (the garbage dump) is very theraputic. I wore “Useless? Use less.” to acknowledge the activity of recycling, reuse and using less. In my town, we pay high taxes but do not receive garbage pick-up. You either pay for a dump sticker, \$90 a year (not bad) or for a private company to come get your garbage, \$hundreds. My town also keeps track of how much recycling is done. The more recycling done the less tons of garbage is generated, the less the town pays to move it. I believe everyone should have to dispose of their own garbage. You are confronted with your own and others’ waste. You see it and your awareness grows. You are more apt to recycle as much as you can because you haul it. Just placing your garbage on the side of the road distances you from the gross amount of waste we all generate.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Stand for Something.”, No comments.

Christine Gerber: I wore the shirt “Question Everything,” but once again no one asked or commented on it.

Justin Good: Wore “Pay attention.” Nobody paid attention.

1/29/06

Nancy Wynn: “Question everything.” was the T of the day. Out and about for a bit, no comments. Then spent six hours setting up mother’s new computer laptop (PC based). Had lots of questions! Figured out most answers but some not a clue how.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Didn’t venture out.

Christine Gerber: I decided once again to wear, “Our leaders have failed us.” I wore it to the gym, but no one asked or even looked at the shirt.

Justin Good: Wore “Question everything.” I was at Kristen’s breakfast shop again and one of the wise ass regulars said, “so how long is your penis then?” and that stumped me, so I said, “well, I don’t know if that is a question of questioning the existence of something or of measurement, which presupposes existence.

WEEK THREE

1/30/06

Nancy Wynn: Was back in the dentist chair, old filling needed to be replaced. I guess they don't last forever. Wore "Stand for something." Had a difficult time choosing today. So many things to say! Finally decided this message covered many bases. Had a great conversation about the art piece with my dentist and his assistant. He stated he would check it out. If he is, Howdy Doc! Tooth feels just fine.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Our leaders have failed us." Due to the beginning of the ENRON hearings today. A colleague in my hallway said he loved my shirt and gave me a thumbs up. Then he added, "at all levels." I told him I wore it in response to the ENRON hearings. Another colleague read my shirt aloud as I passed him. He has commented on my shirts during the last several weeks. I finally told him I was participating in an art piece. He just nodded and didn't ask me to elaborate.

I went to pick up my laminating and it wasn't ready. She felt bad and said, "our leaders have failed us", and LAUGHED! She is great. Later, another colleague stopped me in the hall and wanted to read my shirt. She read it aloud and said "WOW, that's a statement", paused, and then said, "Kelly, wow." I didn't say anything.

At lunch we discussed the CT Teacher's Pension and how the state may consider paying the \$240 million it owes the account this year—since CT has such a surplus of funds. I commented on how this was discussed on Face the State this past Sun morn. There was some comparison to the US Social Security debacle and how many corporations have taken the pension monies of their employees and misused them. I told them that was one of the reasons why I chose to wear "Our leaders have failed us." One teacher said "you and your husband are probably the only two people in the world that watch those shows on Sunday morning. They are so boring. No one ever watches those shows." I didn't say anything, but it was a testament to how unaware many are and how many choose to stay that way. How disappointed she may be someday when it is time for her to collect her pension and the money she thought would be there just might not be enough!

I often don't get into dialogue with the people that read my shirt aloud. I guess at this point in the piece, I just feel good about wearing the shirts. I think I stand for someone who wants to speak up and create awareness but doesn't have to explain why. If someone wants to get involved with conversation I certainly would, but I feel like I am creating awareness and posing as a green light to others who may want to do the same.

Christine Gerber: Well, today I had some difficulty choosing which T-shirt to wear because there are so many issues affecting me. My final decision was "Pay Attention." because I felt it accurately reflected my wish for the general public in light of the Enron executives' trials, Bush's State of the Union speech, and the war. For most of the day, no one asked or commented, but then toward the end of the day an old student saw it and said, "Miss Gerber that's a great teaching shirt." Then another child said, "Yeah you just have to point to it when you want someone to listen." Wow, I wish it were that simple with adults...

Justin Good: "Stand for something" a student asked me, well, what do you stand for? and I said, I stand for the earth, or rather, I'm trying to stand for the earth, but my corporately-managed lifestyle does not stand for the earth. I told her to buy gas at Citgo because that's the only major oil company that isn't the devil (it is owned by the venezulean government, which is one of the great hopes for justice and the earth.

WEEK THREE

1/31/06

Nancy Wynn: “Our leaders have failed us.” was an easy choice today. Since our most failed leader will be addressing the country it seemed perfect. Also, I am disappointed in Sam Alito’s confirmation. On campus today, Emily, a senior design student, asked about the T-shirt and agreed that it was appropriate for the day. She also asked how the project was going. Later in my senior design class, my T-shirt sparked commentary on our current president. Most students are alarmed with our current administration. Brian stated last week that “fear” was the premise of this administration’s marketing message. He was right. I am glad that the students can see through their crafted campaign, I believe they have learned a lesson or two here at the Hartford Art School and have become more knowledgeable about the industry they will be entering.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore, “Question Everything.” My regulars read my shirt aloud as I walked by. As one colleague read it he said “Question Everything, Why?” Another colleague who read “Our leaders have failed us.” last week and thought it was quite a statement, saw me half way down the hall today and yelled to me “what does your shirt say today?” I told her and she agreed.

Christine Gerber: I decided to wear “Greed Kills.” I have been thinking a lot about the people who lost everything because of the massive corruption and greed of top Enron executives. Also, because our entire reason for the war in Iraq is oil, not terrorism, as our president would like us to think. Unfortunately there were no comments or questions about the shirt.

Justin Good: Wore “Greed kills.” During band rehearsal, we were working on a Michelle Shocked song called “god is a real estate developer.” I thought we were going to add a solo section on at the end of the song, so I started a guitar solo just where we were supposed to end. The drummer afterwards chastized me, saying, “vood, greed kills.”

2/1/06

Nancy Wynn: Wearing “Our Leaders have failed us.” to the gallery opening was important. What else could you wear after the State of the Union speech. The opening was extremely well attended.

Much conversation and attention was given to the piece by attendees. I believe it has made an impact. Too many discussions to record here but some memorable moments were: the University press discussing the piece for an article in the Observer and/or media watch notes. I hope they get the info right. Dealing with the press is frustrating at times. Some writers do a great job at interpretation and others place their own spin; talking with the University president on the piece’s depth and dimension; and having a dear New York artist friend visit for the opening. He was so impressed that he has decided to join the performance.

But I do want to comment on two public contexts. I do recognize that I am privileged to be able to work in an academic context that supports free speech and academic freedom. I do not take this for granted. What is disturbing is the confrontation that happened at the House of representatives during the evening of the State of the Union address. Two women wore T-shirts with statements. One woman was the wife of a Representative. Her statement was “Support our troops.” She was kindly asked to remove her shirt and remained in the hall. The second woman was Cindy Sheehan. Her statement was the number of deaths in Iraq and “how many more.” She was taken from the hall and arrested. There are many disturbing issues here. But what is most disturbing is that in our public building, the capital—which we pay taxes for—there is no free speech. There is message control. By choosing to wear a simple T-shirt authorities have defined that action as unwanted and disruptive protesting. This incident happening in the context of the “most public” building in the “best democracy” was revealing!!

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Pay attention.” Today, many of my colleagues I eat with EVERYDAY finally, asked me why I was wearing these shirts. Some thought I had a different each day I have been wearing them. I told them I have only seven, for each day of the week and I am participating in an art piece. I explained how the piece is to create awareness. Someone asked “how would wearing the shirt create awareness.” I said, “we should all “pay attention” to the things going on around us.” She said, “oh, so I have to ask you about the shirt?” I said, “yes, or you could just read it and it invites you to pay attention.” They asked me what

Patriot Series, Uniform of the Day

the other shirts said on them, I told them. They all seemed very interested. Unfortunately, the bell had rung so I had to go to class.

Christine Gerber: After listening to Bush's State of the Union address and watching the ridiculously scripted and mindless standing ovations after every major (if you can call them that) points, I decided to wear "Question Everything." Several students asked about the shirt and a few colleagues. One colleague and I engaged in a discussion about this current administration and the state of our country. Another colleague and I discussed the danger in mindlessly following any political or religious leader and how important it is to question everything.

Justin Good: Wore "Pay attention". No comments.

2/2/06

Nancy Wynn: "Question everything." was the T of the day. Much conversation about the opening the day before. Many students and colleagues like the piece. But one thing that I especially enjoy, is hearing one of my senior design students incorporate the phrases into her speech, comments and dialogue as we are all talking in class. I believe these phrases to be very meaningful to her. She will remember them and she will bring them forward. Nice.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Greed Kills" A colleague at work today asked, "so what are you wearing today?" I showed her my shirt. At this point in the piece, this is a popular request by my colleagues.

I had dinner with a friend who has not seen the shirts and didn't know about my participation in the piece. When she sat down she noticed my shirt and commented that it was cute. I went into a full explanation of the shirts, the piece, and the process of the art performance so far. We talked for sometime about how our society is more interested in being entertained than working at being informed. Many would rather walk around with blinders waiting to watch the next reality TV show than get informed about their community, state or world. It was a great conversation!

As I walked around Panera, the spot we met for dinner, I was interested in seeing people read my shirt. I really loved walking around with "Greed Kills" on my shirt. I wish I could read some of their minds.

WEEK FOUR

In the evening I spoke with my father for quite a while. He is leaving for Europe on a long ski trip. He has not seen us wearing the shirts and we haven't spoken about the piece at all since it started. I told him about the art opening last evening and what a great response the piece is getting. I talked to him about my feelings since the beginning of the piece. I explained how during the first week I would immediately explain to people why I was wearing the shirts if someone read it. Then over the next few weeks, I became more interested in their reaction to me than me reacting to them. I didn't always feel like explaining why I was wearing the shirt. I watched their reaction and their comfort level with what I chose to say on my shirt. Presently, I am very comfortable wearing the shirts, watching their reactions, and choosing to speak my mind with those that want to converse with me about the piece, politics, and any other issue that may arise during the moment.

Christine Gerber: I decided to wear "Just Answer the Question." primarily because I wanted answers to some of my recent car troubles. I didn't receive them.... Some of my students asked which shirt I was wearing, but no conversations.

Justin Good: Wore "Question everything." Jen and I stopped at Venetucci's, a furniture store in Old Saybrook, to look at a couch she likes. Jen's friend bee, who I just met last week and like, said she liked my T-shirt. Why, I asked. She said, "well, I'm just one of those people who think that everything is very questionable, and that it's a very irresponsible thing to not acknowledge that." amen, I said.

Alred Martinez: In the cafeteria the women behind the cash register, as she took my money, kept looking at my T-shirt ("Just answer the question.") She never said a word and even after I started to leave, she made an effort to look at the shirt again...Later when I was teaching, in one class did I volunteer to talk about the shirt.

2/3/06

Nancy Wynn: "Our leaders have failed us." was again the message. Specifically, in reference to the horrid budget our congress has passed and will send to the president to sign. So many people will suffer!! My students, in Civic, asked what I was interested in communicating today. I told

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them and expounded on the fact that one third of the budget's cuts fall on the backs of college students—the ones who need loans, which is most. They were most distressed by this fact. We then discussed voting and how to make a difference. All good dialogue!

Later that evening, our design dept. hosted two international designers for dinner—one of them is teaching our students this semester, the other is his guest for the class. Bob Dennis attended also. Creative, challenging, inspiring, and innovative conversation all evening. They agree that the leaders of the USA have lost their humanity.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore, “Our leaders have failed us.” At lunch I was eating with my regulars and one teacher who inquired about my shirts earlier in the week asked to see what I was wearing today. I showed her the shirt and she read it aloud. Her response to me was “kind of harsh, don’t you think?” I said “no, not at all.” I could tell she disapproved of the shirt. It made me feel even better about wearing it. I was getting someone to think about how outspoken we can be as Americans regarding our government and our leaders. She wasn’t happy to see me wear the shirt possibly since we were in school or she doesn’t feel our leaders have failed us. She didn’t probe me to find out which leaders I felt had failed us.

Continuing at lunch, a few of us were discussing the Patriot Act. We were talking about how the government could gain access to our library usage, tap our phones, and potentially gain info on what we googled. This older gentleman who is a sub at my high school asked us, “Do you remember when Pres. Bush said we were at war?” We all just looked at him, he asked us again. One of us said, “what type of war?” He said, “Do you believe we are at war?” I said, “what type of war? A war on terror?” He then said, “don’t you know when this country is at war, the commander and chief is allowed to gain access to any info that may be helpful in fighting the enemy?” We tried to explain to him that making amendments to our constitution in time of war or peace was what we disagreed with. He finally said there was no use in arguing with us since he knew he couldn’t win.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Stand for Something.” because I’ve been thinking a lot about how infrequently people take a stand against injustices

WEEK FOUR

in our current political system. I was hoping to engage in some interesting conversations, but only a few children asked to read my shirt and no adults commented on it.

Justin Good: Wore “Question everything.” Jen’s mom picks up on it and reads aloud, “question everything?” I say, “Yes, Sue. Do you agree?” “Sure. Why not? Well, it is kind of a nutty idea,” she says. “You’re a nut,” I say.

2/4/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Useless? Use Less.” No comments at dinner of the in-laws.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Didn’t venture out.

Christine Gerber: Stayed home and accomplished chores.

Justin Good: Wore “Useless? Use less.” Our favorite waitress at Kristen’s again says, “Is that another one of those T-shirts?” I say, “Yes. What do you think?” “hmmm. I think it means that, unless you are consuming, you are useless, you’re just sitting on your ass.” I say, “Wow, that’s an interesting interpretation.” She ends with, “Well that’s the only way I could interpret it.”

2/5/06

Nancy Wynn: “Question everything.” was worn. Jeff, after church bumped me and asked “what T-shirt are you wearing today?” I opened my coat and flashed him my shirt—felt like I was exposing myself. He stated, “good question, I asked.” and laughed. Later mother and friend Pat came for dinner and to watch the Superbowl. Much discussion on the our country’s state of affairs, the unbelievable poll numbers and what strategies could the Demos be planning. Mother was hopeful, Pat and I were doubtful but stating that they needed a plan. Not that much would change, but we agreed that this particular administration was too radically engaged in dismantling our civic rights and our social network.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Useless? Use less.” No comments.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Useless? Use less.” to a Superbowl party as a commentary on how much Americans use and waste on days like the

Superbowl. Unfortunately it was freezing in the house (they're using less gas) so I had to wear a sweatshirt the whole time and no one saw the shirt.

Justin Good: Wore "Just answer the question." Stayed inside all day with Jen, no comments.

2/6/06

Nancy Wynn: Today I wore "Just answer the question." The hearings on the NSA spying program started and unfortunately ended in one day. The only witness was attorney general Alberto Gonzales. I kept asking him to answer the questions. He was very good at deflecting and disguising his answers. He spent much of his time NOT answering the questions but towing the party line. Important information is being kept from our country and its people. Our country is becoming ever more fascist. Did venture to school and out to dinner. No comments.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Greed kills." No comments from anyone I encountered, but I had a conversation with my brother in law regarding the myspace.com website. An example of a money making, good for hardly anything, website that has caused harm and death amongst young people.

Christine Gerber: I wore "Question everything." because of the Senate Judiciary Hearings on the Domestic Spying program. I wanted to hear that the committee was asking the tough questions and not just going along party lines. One teacher asked which shirt I had on today and when I showed her she said, "Oh we've seen that one." and walked away.

w Wore "Our leaders have failed us." The lady at the post office says, "Boy, you're brave to wear that!" I say, "Why?" She states, "Because they might come after you!" I say, "Well, I don't think they are worried about me yet, but isn't that a reason to wear it?" "What do you mean?" she questions. I say, "I mean that, if the government is that corrupt that there is a problem with me wearing a shirt like this, isn't it even more important to call attention to that?" She states, "Absolutely. Personally, I think that the federal government is irretrievably broken."

2/7/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Useless? Use less.” in response to a great piece of news in Canada. The government of Canada, British Columbia, environmental leaders, native peoples and the logging industry have worked together to shield 5 millions acres of the Great Bear Rain Forest from logging. The other 10 million of the forest will have selective logging. Wow, when people work together they can accomplish wonderful things! Very inspiring. There were no comments on my shirt.

Kelly Wynn Burns: “Pay attention.” No comments.

Justin Good: “Greed kills.” was my choice. A friend who works at Simon’s market, “You know, that’s right. Greed does kill, alot of people still don’t make that connection.” I said, “Well, do you think that many people think of themselves as greedy, Carl?” He said, “I think so, sure. They know that in comparison to people in Africa they are greedy.” I said, “Yes but they probably assume that their greed is economically useful, right. I mean, Bill Gates said that the problem with most people is that their greed is finite and that war is inevitable in a world of change and misunderstanding and jealousy.” He said, “yes, but I would say that people are jealous for good reasons, because we rape their economies, plunder their natural capital, leaving them helpless, at which point they have to borrow money from us to feed themselves, and then borrow more money to service their debts to us. It’s gross. god.”

Alred Martinez: Wore “Our leaders have failed us.” 3 situations by 5 adults, 3 women, 2 men.....1st. situation, I wore to my lecture class the T-shirt saying, “Our leaders have failed us.” I could not get my computer to turn on—to display through the room monitors my visual matter. This went on for some “frustrating” 13 minutes and I ran out of stories. I declared to cancel class as I pointed to my shirt and admitted to being a failed leader! Then the monitors came on and the class turned into a fully amused model. 2nd situation, in the hallway Susan looked at the shirt and said, “certain particular leaders.” Robin, said hi to me in the hall, looked at the shirt and said “Great”, as in the statement being true! Barbara, another staff member, said in effect, “I don’t take issue with leaders if they fail because of circumstances outside of their control, but social leaders that fail because of not being responsible or caring

about their obligations, which result in negative consequences for the lives of others, this is intolerable behavior and I take issue with this.” 3rd situation, Larry saw the shirt, and reacted by saying, “I feel this statement is totally current with today’s politics.”..., he also thought this type of conceptual art was very intelligent!

2/8/06

Nancy Wynn: Chose “Question everything.” My family is trying to understand when is the right time to say goodbye to our lovable companion Sunny—our 17 year old Jack Russel Terrier. Lots of questions this week. We spent the day trying to get answers. My husband and I also went to TheaterWorks’ production of The Exonerated. A play about 5 death row inmates that were falsely accused and then released—some after many years of incarceration. The play was poignant in its message about our country’s justice system. Many questions there! Not great answers.

Kelly Wynn Burns: “Stand for something.” Wore this shirt due to the political statements made at Coretta King’s funeral. If I were so lucky to have the leaders of our country at my funeral, I would have invited those comments towards our war hungry, fear raising, outrageous money spending leaders. Her husband was the most famous and influential nonviolent activist and she stood for many of the same ideas. With so many influential people in attendance those words needed to be said and I hope they all were LISTENING! Unfortunately, no comments from anyone.

Christine Gerber: I decided to wear “Just Answer the question.” because of some miscommunication that’s been going on at school and I can’t seem to get a straight answer from anyone. No one asked or commented on the shirt. I guess I still won’t get my questions answered.

Justin Good: Wore “Pay attention.” No comments.

Alred Martinez: Today was simple, I wore “Greed Kills” to the breakfast club and only one person was there, artist Charles Meyers, who said, “I hope not”. Maybe that says something about Charles. Then we got into a discussion involving the art work. I said try to see if people could read and think. Charles felt that the younger generation

didn't think it was "cool" that their peers should know they gave much thought to reading. I don't know where he got that idea.....

2/9/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore "Greed kills." During class, Emily and Shakeema wanted to know what shirt I was wearing. They read it and our discussion turned to an AUC class that Emily was taking. She was shocked to watch a video where the right-wing, Christian fundamentalist narrator went on to state that condoms should not be sent to Africa because there is no AIDS problem. People are just dying from the polluted water. The narrator went on to state other mistruths. Emily was not necessarily horrified by the narrator's comments, she was more horrified that the majority of the students in the class were not disturbed by the narrator and the video. She felt alone and sad by the lack of understanding the students had about social and global issues.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Questions everything." No comments.

Christine Gerber: I wore "Pay Attention." At school, we're in the middle of putting on a large-scale play with 2nd graders and it seems that no one in the administration is listening to the challenges we're facing. Unfortunately, my wearing the shirt attracted no attention or comments.

Justin Good: Wore "Just answer the question." No comments.

Alfred Martinez: Today, at school, Larry the historian looked at "Greed Kills" and said, "Right on target." 2) went to my art history class and showed a video on the Renaissance, Michelangelo and the Humanism ideas. This is where the conceptual T-shirt idea came into play. Someone in class wanted to know who created this T-shirt idea; was it bought, done by an amateur student? So, the discussion developed into how art has social message. As definitions added up in class, the video added in Michelangelo as one of the first to be conveying social messages through public sculpture. The class then came to recognize the T-shirt idea as being in the secular tradition "of reading the concepts in object art." "Reading and getting the meaning" was the conclusion. They were very interested to learn that this work was created by an artist/professor from the Hartford Art

WEEK FIVE

school. I pointed out that it was a collaboration idea with Robert Dennis. The art of a living-process example of fine art with message, caused them to make sense of the video's definition of message in art, as opposed to who was the best marble carver of Italy. 3).. After class in the cafeteria, waiting for the cash register clerk to finish counting hands full of green dollars, I pointed to my shirt "Greed Kills", and said "he should be more cautious". He took this personally and started to justify that "this money was the serious days counts", that if not taken care of was going to get him in trouble because bills needed to be met and his children needed to be feed. Finally he took my money and as I walked away, he said "I guess you really are just pulling at my shirt sleeves." 4)..Larry the historian caught me again and went out of his way to say, "the T-shirt was so precise in that statement concerning today's policy condition.", then we extended the T-shirt idea into a 35 minutes of discussion...

2/10/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore "Our leaders have failed us." Julien, a former design student of mine, was in for a visit. He is from France and is/was a foreign student. He still studys in America working on his second degree. He loves America and would like to stay. As soon as he saw the shirt, he read it out loud and stated, "That is so right!"

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Just answer the question." One of my colleagues read my shirt out load as we were talking. No further comments.

Christine Gerber: I chose to wear "Our leaders have failed us" in light of some mismanagement I feel is happening in my school. It's amazing to me how disorganization and lack of clear goals on the part of management has a negative effect on every member of the organizaiton. Unfortunately, the shirt did not attract any comments or discussions amongst my colleagues. Once again, some children asked to read my shirt and were curious about it.

Justin Good: Wore "Question everything." At kristens again, Maria says, "Dont you ever get tired questioning everything?" "That's a good question." I say. Maria asks, "You mean you dont know?" I say, "Well, yes, I dont know. I mean, thinking is both exhausting and also energizing." She states,

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“Whatever.” I say, “No, I’m serious. Thinking, questioning, increases activity and connectivity, and that takes energy and produces entropy and heat loss, but on the other hand, thinking can connect you with large organic processes, and you can therefore tap into different energy sources, different flows of structure, becoming, and that energizes you.” She ends with, “hmmmmm.”

Alfred Martinez: I have been wearing the shirts regardless of contact with people...I had on “Useless? Use Less.” for Friday...walking around trying to complete chores and not getting results causes one to start talking to themselves. So walking around with a sign on your chest that says “Useless”, would not one go out of their mind?

2/11/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Stand for something.” Was a member of a panel discussion this afternoon at the Hartford Art School—Art in the 21st Century. It was an alumni event and had fairly good attendance even with an impending blizzard. During the panel discussion, I was most impressed with a question from the audience that brought attention to our world’s future concerning dependence on oil. How would the Art School survive? What type of an Art School would we be? or would we be at all? What type of education should we be focused on in reference to this message? I was impressed because it brought to light, in a public forum, real issues of importance that usually do not get air time. The moderator then says, “Well I have the perfect member to answer those questions, Nancy.” In summary my responses and all responses from the panel were about how artists are survivalists. We have learned to do more with less. The basic education of problem-solving, critical thinking, and learning how to “see” would be most important. Many comments about the art piece and the T-shirts themselves. I believe I was preaching to the choir.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Pay attention.” No comments.

Christine Gerber: Today I wore “Greed Kills,” honestly, because it was the only clean one. No one commented on the shirt, but John asked about the project and we had a very long discussion about the art piece and how it has affected me.

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We spoke about how some days, I would like to change a word or two in some of the t-shirts because then it would match my thinking more precisely. Or how, I’ve begun paying closer attention to the information the media presents and how I’m questioning this information more than ever. It was a very interesting discussion about my involvement in this and helped me to reflect upon it.

Justin Good: Wore “Useless? Useless.” No comments. But I thought about it when I saw myself in the bathroom mirror. I’m reading ‘small is beautiful’ now by E.F.Shumacher, and I was thinking about the ways in which an aesthetic of smallness cannot be reconciled with modernist functionalism.

Alfred Martinez: At the gym Saturday, with a shirt saying “Question everything.”, was read by some people, no reaction. Even when I almost put it in the face of a Rutgers english professor, who did read it, there still was no reaction. I am starting to add up my own survey here, “people” are cautious or very self involved, or we surely are in a culture of “less content!”

2/12/06

Nancy Wynn: Nothing worn. So much snow! Spent much time digging out, watching the Olympics and reading. Did not travel anywhere except walked down the street to gaze at the beauty of nature. Awesome!!!!

Kelly Wynn Burns: Didn’t venture out in the storm.

Christine Gerber: Due to the blizzard yesterday, I did not go out at all so I didn’t wear one of the shirts.

Justin Good: Wore “Just answer the question.” No comments, didn’t go outside but watched the storm in reverse.

Alfred Martinez: Today I decided to take the challenge again on the T-shirt “Useless? Use Less.” Since Friday I have been in solo dialogue with this shirt (Useless) and my domestic efforts. So, after the storm, everyone is here at the loft with no place to go and I am walking around with this Tshirt. Alanna, inquires about the “Use less” part of the shirt and I stated that it is a conservative phrase and she disagreed. She thought that

“conservatives” where not conservatives since what they conserved was not always conservative. Afterwards I went to Strand’s and got, “The Shape of Content”, by Ben shahn, c.1957, hoping not to feel “Useless” !

2/13/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Useless? Use less.” to my Clare Gallery meeting. Jeff read the shirt out loud in a questioning tone and asked about its meaning. I asked him, “are you using less Jeff?” He said, “No, I am using more.” I followed with, “Well what more are you using and why?” He looked at me and smiled but did not answer.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Pay attention.”. I thought it appropriate in light of Vice President Cheney’s accidental shooting of his hunting partner.

As I was leaving work a colleague said she really like the shirts I have been wearing. Her sisiter, Jan, works in my department and they talked about the piece. She asked if they were available to purchase. I told her after the piece is over, Nancy was considering it.

As I travelled to the gym there was some great conversation on 1080 am with Colin McEnroe regarding the vice president’s accident. I sat in my car and couldn’t get enough talk radio on this bizarre occurance. Is is just a coincidence that this happened with our adminstration???????? Or are they just trigger happy people?????

I went into the gym and wore my shirt while working out for the first time. I haven’t worn my shirts while lifting weights, running, spinning etc... Since I work out 4-5 times a week, I can’t imagine what they would look or smell like now if I had. My friend, Dan, said “Pay attention, Kelly” as I approached him at the bench press. I told him why I was wearing the shirt and we had a nice little convo about the vice president’s accident. I don’t talk politics with the people I work out with but we did and I discovered he doesn’t agree with the war in Iraq either.

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Christine Gerber: I chose to wear “Our leaders have failed us.” but unfortunately no one asked or commented on the shirt.

Justin Good: Wore “Our leaders have failed us.” We talked about Dick Cheney shooting someone during a quail hunting trip in one of my Uconn classes. One of the students joked about our leaders having failed us.

2/14/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Question everything.” in reference to all the absurdity happening in our administration. It is truly a circus of fools. People really need start questioning the overall and over-reaching philosophy of secrecy in our current administration. No comments today.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Question everything.” A colleague at lunch wanted to talk about the shirts I had been wearing over the last several weeks. She had listened to some of the conversations I had with others in the faculty lunch room. She thought the idea was great and loved the interaction created by the shirts. I explained how the piece was intended to create awareness and I told her I thought it had during the time I have been wearing them.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Just answer the question.” after watching the White House press secretary dodge questions about Cheney and the shooting incident. No one made any comments on the shirt.

Justin Good: Wore “Greed kills.” No comments. But I did think about the various ways in which the American tapeworm economy has been feasting on Iraq.

Alfred Martinez: In the hall way the historian Larry was seeking me out to see what statement was on my Tshirt. “Pay attention.” it said, and Larry pointed to the shirt with glee, saying “that is needed”. Then extending the conceptual Tshirt Art idea we talked of the direct and simple idea of text on a Tshirt. We discussed the process of artists liking to print personal statements on Tshirts and distributing them amongst friends and how this form of art expression became very popular during the 1980s. Larry and I agreed that this process created by Nancy and Bob was more like reporting on current news ; where how someone’s reaction becomes significant enough to report on. We felt this Tshirt idea of wearing the shirt to, a) communicate an idea and stimulate reaction and, b) to report on the produced effect is a different form of art language idea since it is blogged! It is actually a type of news reporting because of being inputted into a web distribution media; a blog. In this regard their art idea is a highly potent agent of human information accessed immediately by any one! Other forms

of distributing Tshirt messages is limited because of their physical access: handed out as package, passed out by hand, boxed and shipped out, displayed in a store or gifted to someone. Access information on the scale of TV, radio, newspaper and books is not only wide access media, but history also a form of distribution. The big difference with Nancy and Bob’s Tshirt idea, Larry and I find is the process of using the “global immediacy” occurrence of the Internet. In the past conceptual art never had such far reaching public power. Artists around the world have been showing their work and ideas since the web was formed and in this respect Nancy & Bob’s idea can be significantly labeled as a new social art culture. Larry pointed at the Tshirt saying, “thats it”

2/15/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Just answer the question.” I am asking for some comfort to my question about my dog Sunny. Tonight we have decided to euthanize Sunny. It has been a very difficult question to answer. You are never sure. So I asked for some guidance from the almighty. Later that evening when Sunny was at peace, we think it was the right decision. So perhaps with time the question will be answered. I have to say the doctor was so graceful and the experience was calm. Though as soon as the Doctor stated that she had gone, I thought to myself “No, I changed my mind, can I take it back!” Of course I said nothing and knew our decision was final. From this experience, one thing I now understand is Death is SO final. Making a choice to end a life is a huge burden that one must bear. I wish our leaders had these thoughts. If they did our country’s international situation would not be so tragic.

Earlier in the day, I did wear the T-shirt to a faculty meeting on sexual harassment. A lawyer came in to educate us on the particulars. No one commented on the shirt.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Stand for something.” In the morning a teacher I rarely see saw my shirt and said she loved it. At lunch, Jane, a regular, at my lunch table, asked me if I was tired of wearing the shirts. I told her I would be done wearing them this Friday and I was not tired of wearing them. Another teacher asked me why I was wearing them. I explained the art piece’s intentions. I described,

WEEK SIX

how I prepare to get dressed in the morning, I consider what is going on in the world, country, town or community and base my uniform selection on what I want to make others aware of.

Mike, a woodshop teacher, asked me if I would come to school naked if I didn't have anything to say that day. I laughed. We had a great little heady conversation about coming to school naked and how our principal would think of it. Mike, proceeded to tell us he had just gone to an art opening at Manchester Community College to see a show a friend of his is in. He described the work to me. I don't think we would have had the conversation about art if I hadn't been wearing the shirts.

Christine Gerber: Today I chose to wear "Pay Attention." But again, no one asked or commented on it.

Justin Good: Wore "Pay attention." Mark, the bass player in the band, told me he really liked the tee. I talked about the project and he listened and smiled. I need a shirt like that, he said, "When I am talking to people, I could just point to the shirt."

Alfred Martinez: My day and Tshirt started out slowly, but eventually I ended up in a book store meeting an artist friend Richard Pitts who wanted to share some newly published books on street art revealing yet another urban identity. We were having fun discovering these visual images. Finally we drifted over to Chelsea his part of Manhattan and into some cafe for lunch and sharing of ideas; his upcoming show, my art research topics, and your Tshirt came on as I took off my jacket! Next we are discussing a long list of current art exhibits and focusing in on art processes and influences. Specifically, we moved into postmodernist formalist language and how capable it was at explaining art context and content. In Richard's view, there was something missing about postmodernist use of visual language. And that was the "esoteric element" which has always being so connected with the primal nature of human creativity. He pointed to my Tshirt, "Stand for Something" and said "he was creating from an unself conscious developing-identity (not quiet conscious), and at the moment of being conscious, at that very moment, he moved to the next challenge." Richard

said "this kind of understanding is the subculture of visual language." It was a recent discovery for his way of thinking and it was dicating the style of his images in a self rewarding way.

2/16/06

Nancy Wynn: I wore "Pay attention." During my sophomore design class, Image Making and Meaning, we discuss the cartoons that are being circulated in the world via the use of technology. We discussed the different meanings one image can have and by the change in context a new meaning is employed. We also discussed the various agendas that folks involved might have and how these various disruptions played out. Many of my male students were of the opinion that the people who were causing the violence were over-reacting and they were taking the images too seriously. Many of the women students were of the opinion that sensitivity needed to be used in the decision to run the cartoons or not. I am not one to stereotype but it was an interesting observation. Throughout our discussion I found myself saying "you need to pay attention to this or that..." I could not help myself. It was a very engaging and interesting conversation my class.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore "Just answer the question." Several people asked me "what is the question?" I responded with, "Why was Vice President Cheney hunting this past weekend?" I am not against hunting, but I don't think it is appropriate behavior for our Vice President with others to be using deadly weapons recreationally. He is second in command of our country and if anything had happened to him, that would not be a good thing. So why put yourself in harms way when you don't need to? I got two responses from other hunters, one was a woman, and she had no problem with him hunting. Another colleague, felt there was nothing inappropriate about it, but he found some contradictions in the stories released to the public. He found it hard to bellieve that a 28 gauge rifle at 30 yards away could penetrate the skin. I am not a gun expert, but I was told by a seasoned hunter that VP Cheney had to be much closer to have his shot harm him the way it did. I was told about 6-10 feet! 28 gauge shot is very small!

Christine Gerber: Today I wore "Pay Attention." No comments or questions.

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Justin Good: Wore “Stand for something.” Jen was meeting with a young girl, Kayle, whom she is tutoring. She’s about 8 years old. She kept looking at the tee during breakfast. “What does it mean to stand for something?” she asked me. “It means that you act on what you believe.” She then said, “But I don’t understand, because doesn’t everyone always act on what they believe?” That got us into a discussion of hypocrisy, which we understood quite well.

Alfred Martinez: A lady stopped me to read my T-shirt (“Just Answer the Question?”) and she said, “yes I will do everything, I will do things correctly, and I will be happy to do what you say. And only ask me to vote as a democrat!” This was Ania, who is a chemistry professor and she enjoys being spontaneous and does not believe in programming her life....2) Then the biology professor walked into my office saw the the question on my T-shirt and said, “Oh that applies to Gonzales who actually didn’t answer any questions”.

2/17/06

Nancy Wynn: “Stand for something.” was my choice. No one commented during classes. But after classes I went to visit my 93 year old grandmother, Kay. She is living at a convalescent home and is being very well cared for. It was a difficult day for her. She does have good ones and bad ones. She can not hear well and her hearing aid was in the shop. I had to get real close to her right ear to speak to her but that was nice and intimate. I did her nails, they were shabby. I love looking and caring for my grandmothers hands. I once photographed them, I think I will do it again soon. She had difficulty putting her words together to make sentences so sometimes I tried to guess what she wanted to say. The whole time, I could see, in her eyes, the frustration of being in a body that doesn’t do what she wants it to and then not being able to speak her thoughts correctly. At one point she clearly said, “I wish I could go to sleep and not wake up.” I just held her hand and stated “I know Kay.” After going through the experience with my dog Sunny I was thinking that if Sunny could talk she would have told me that too. On good days my grandmother does not say she wants to go to sleep, she talks a bit and we do easy puzzles. I am telling you this life thing is really tough. What am I standing for? I stand for dignity however that may be exercised.

The one thing that my grandmother did pursue and almost got it right was to read my T-shirt. She was cute. She said, “what is on your shirt?” I said, “can you read it?” Then she tried. She got through the “Stand for” and then trailed off. I finished it for her and she smiled a big smile. She understood very well what it meant.

Kelly Wynn Burns: Wore “Our leaders have failed us.” Being my last day wearing the shirts I thought I would wear this one. I stated to my colleagues at lunch that today was my last day and they looked carefully at what I was wearing. We didn’t really talk about the message, but we discussed the piece. One male teacher, Tom, liked the whole idea of the piece and did like seeing what I was wearing, but he felt VERY awkward looking at my chest each day. I told him he was SUPPOSE to look at my chest. He must be very bashful, because he never got comfortable with it. We discussed other ways the message could have been displayed. Hats, back of the shirt, hold a flag, bandana.... but I thought Nancy may have been using the front of the shirt since it is so popular for Tee shirts with messages on them to be worn today.

Another colleague, Karen, really liked the piece, and we talked about the angry messages that appear on many young people’s shirts today. She felt these were very philosophical rather than angry. (I am not so sure that these are not angry, but we didn’t get into that).

Another colleague, a foreign lang teacher, thought the context of my message would be interpreted differently if I were in a bar as opposed to a school. I didn’t really understand what he meant.

All in all, it was a great experience. 6 weeks was a long time to wear the shirts daily, enough time for my feelings to change and evolve as the weeks passed by. It has made me more aware of the news around me. In addition, I have realized, more people than I thought are unaware of what is going on around them.

Maybe they think the events going on in Washington DC are too far removed from their world so they don’t care to know or don’t know how to begin educating themselves. I will continue to promote my ideas and create awareness in my own way. I may wear the shirts on occasion to conjure up some nice conversation. Thanks to all for reading!

Patriot Series, Uniform of the Day

Christine Gerber: Today I wore “Pay Attention.”
No comments or questions.

Justin Good: Wore “Question everything.”
No comments.

2/18/06

Nancy Wynn: I wore “Stand for something.” again.
Went to a basketball game and to church. No comments.

Christine Gerber: I wore “Question everything.”
My friend, Erika, noticed the shirt right away and commented on how important it is to “question everything.” She also said it reminds her of the book she is reading called Fahrenheit 451 which was written back in the 1950’s but mirrors so much of what is occurring in our political climate today. I have not yet read the book, but after Erika’s comments, I plan on it.

Justin Good: Wore “Useless? Use less.”
No comments, but I was thinking about how useless I felt.

Alfred Martinez: Latest messages are late because of computer power packs, which can’t “Stand for Something.” Was at the gym Saturday wearing my Tshirt “Stand for Something.”, shaking hands with Gary a muscular workout guy who read the message and smiled. It was obvious to him that he was on the right groove.

2/19/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Useless? Use less.” Went to visit my grandmother again to see if she was having a good day today. Yes, she was. She was enjoying a musical performance by an accordion player. She again tried to read my T-shirt. After a few times, she got it right. Little activities such as this are very important for her to accomplish. I am sure she was feeling quite useful at that moment.

While there, my uncle and aunt also came to visit and he instantly stated he loved the shirt. “Oh, so appropriate!” We went on to have a very in-depth discussion about using less, the impending energy crisis, perhaps a WW3 (he is very concerned on this one), and interesting books we are reading. My uncle was a high school math teacher for most of his career and now retired, he tutors students for the SAT. He still loves teaching.

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He learns from his young students. But he does see a huge shift in the ability to focus and communicate well. Unfortunately, not in a positive direction. An interesting trend he has noted is when asked to write the SAT essay about issues of technology in our culture his students all seem to write about how all this technology they use creates a very shallow and disconnected community. No one really cares about being real. Technology is useful but creates a useless “real” community. Interesting. I am glad to see that they are thinking about its impact.

Christine Gerber: On our plane ride down to Antigua on Sunday, I also wore “Question Everything.” On of the guys we were travelling with decided to literally question everything I was doing. He then said, “Well you’re shirt says to question everything so that’s what I’m doing.” Another woman on the plane said, “When kids are around two that’s all you hear them do.”

Alfred Martinez: Sunday was a solo excursion with my thoughts. Went to an antique store looking for old books and found a couple: The Genius of George B. Shaw and the other a California cookbook. What was of interest in the Shaw book was a small mirror idea of “Stand for Something?” Shaw already famous in the 1910s, was sought out by photographers of the day in need of celebrity subjects. Shaw liked to be documented by visual artists, but he felt that they never did “portraits of men and women showing their legs and shoulders”; so one morning he posed nude for Alvin Langdon Coburn as Rodin’s “The Thinker” to be an antidote of political idolatry. Critics accused the artist of faking his photograph! According to Shaw even in his time it was a difficult proposition, “standing up”. But at other times it pays off in “gold”, like it did for the speed skating Olympian Shani Davis the first black athlete to win in the winter games of Turin, Italy on Saturday when he passed on the relay team event and decided to focus on the individual short speed race.

2/20/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Greed kills.” in reference to the New York Times article on “garage consultants.” This article exhibited the gluttonous times we live in. Many Americans have two or three car garages with no cars in them because they

WEEK SIX

have waaaayyyyy too much stuff housed in the garage. The business of organization is booming since these folks hire someone to come in and teach them to be purge, organize and try to remain responsible with their consuming. One couple paid \$12,000 to have this completed for them. I wish the article ended with how our consumer habits create the most garbage worldwide. But this would have been editorializing the story. We truly are a monster society. There were no comments.

2/21/06

Nancy Wynn: I wore “Useless? Use less.” in reference to a great story in the New York Times on this company Recycle Bank (<http://www.recyclebank.com>). They have come up with a business model that mixes the social responsibility of recycling with a rewards system. In their research they indicate that the mere fact of social responsibility is NOT working to inspire people to recycle. Too bad. But they have created a system of rewards to individuals that do. Unfortunately, it does come down to the power of money or “coupons” to get people to do the right thing. Aside from that, people are jumping on the garbage truck to join in. Which in the end is a good thing. Check out the website and learn more.

Justin Good: “Greed kills.” Mark the bass player at band rehearsal again, “I like the shirt, I like the shirt.” I told him I could give it to him when the piece is finished.

Alfred Martinez: Today I was in the cafeteria and a student I was not familiar with said she had notice me wearing these white Tshirts with different statements on them, but didn’t want to say anything to me about it. She felt I might be offended if she made a comment about them. She was Emily, and I said to her that they were designed to make people who read them think about the statements. Today I was wearing “Useless? Use less.”, and Emily said nothing was useless in her life; she tried to make use of everything. A former student of mine, Sonia, who happened to be listening, thought the Tshirt message was very minimal. She said that the text and the shirt were very visual. There was a space scale not only between the words, but a clean area of space surrounding the words and she liked feeling the group of letters contained as a “minimal image.”

2/22/06

Nancy Wynn: “Question everything.” was worn. There were no comments. As this piece winds down, this is the last week of performance, I find myself asking all sorts of questions. Some are about myself, some are about the public forum, some are about art, some are about our government and some are about the future. This piece has brought to light the fact that asking for the public’s engagement is sometimes difficult and sometimes very rewarding. It can not be controlled.

I like that component of the piece. Many times control is important to design, to teaching, to art-making. But to allow others to have part of the control is interesting—there is an element of trust that you have to believe in regardless of the outcome.

Justin Good: “Pay attention.” Wednesday was one of those days when the vast majority of my students appeared to be deep in their narcotic trance. I showed them a mind-blowing film about Ladakh, little Tibet. 2 or 3 students got very excited, the rest were utterly zoned out. I doubt they could even see the tee, maybe they couldnt even see me!

Alfred Martinez: Today my blog acts as diary entry. An enactment of a diary. And according to Michael Rush’s book *New Media in Art*. The Tshirt idea is a physical enactment idea for personal statement through collaborate performance by an artist. The Tshirt idea, to wear a shirt with statement, can be standard uniform, in its wider use it is an informal piece of body clothing; originally to be worn as under clothing. My Tshirt is over clothing to be used on top of other clothes. I am performing a function of language by conveying a text message to anyone who can see it and read it. One day the message is a directive, on another day I show a question, or even an affirmation; I think of these messages as being quiet, very silent. In my mind these messages have life and live at the most unexpected moments. Thinking about books always causes the Tshirt messages to reappear; not all of them, it really depends on what book I am involved with. These Tshirts like to live with concepts. Though it doesn’t have to be that way. Right now reading about art and media, the Tshirt concept by Nancy and Bob is very interesting. As I move in time so does my outer message, “Useless? Useless.”, and if it connects with someone’s thought it becomes an experience, when I blog a report of such a contact-event it becomes history. This history will then live in virtual time, in digital media, electrically simulated into a global organism. The message travels like a kind of ghost to anywhere a computer is connected and located, the message with or without meaning exists at once. This process of displaying visual statements, of communicating language, for personal contribution as an act of connection is

also an act to be real at a constant level. I think our living daily culture of people treat thinking as a privilege! So, art intervenes as it recognizes interest and a challenge. Art only happens by people that need language.

2/23/06

Nancy Wynn: Wore “Question everything.” today. When I was teaching my sophomore design class, Emily and Shakeema (senior design students) asked to see the T-shirt. Emily’s response was, “What are you going to wear when your piece is over? We are so used to seeing you in your uniform, it is going to be so weird when you are back to wearing your regular clothes. You will have to make your choices based on your clothes and not the saying on the shirt, that will be different for you.” I answered with, “I don’t know what I am going to wear but yes it will be different next week.” I did think about what we all were talking about and how my students have identified me by my “sayings.” Since the semester started that is all they have known. For some students who I never had before, they will begin to see me with a new or different identity next week. I wonder what they will say, if anything.

Justin Good: “Stand for something.”
No comments.

Alfred Martinez: This morning in a history class we are reviewing for an exam and I throw out a question to the students. One student holds up his hand and I acknowledge him, saying so what is your answer? He then puts down his hand saying, “oh I just read your Tshirt, so forget about what I started to say”. Looking at my Tshirt, “Pay Attention”, was written on it. The entire class thought the reaction funny. Larry the historian came by wanting to check my daily Tshirt. I mentioned to him the earlier response by a student. He thought the student was looking to do the right thing....and he read all the signs!

WEEK SEVEN

2/24/06

Nancy Wynn: This was the last day of the performance. I am feeling a bit sad to finish the piece but also elated to wear some other clothes. I decided to finish the piece off with “Our leaders have failed us.” for many reasons but one in particular exhibited itself early in the morning. Received an email from our town’s superintendent of schools. It stated that with the high cost of fuel and the unfortunate occurrence of the school’s budget being blown, the high school was going to turn down the heat. Parents were to make sure their children dressed appropriately for cooler temperatures. Now I am all for using less but I was surprised that our school system has run out of money. Living in one of the higher per-capita town’s with very high taxes it occurred to me that my leaders in town have failed us. This winter has not been that cold. The price of gas or energy did not spike so what have they done with all the money? I don’t agree with much of the politics of this town I live in. Lot’s of questions will have to be answered.

No one comments on the shirt but I did bring it up in a meeting with a new client when we were talking about the fact that Connecticut’s towns are famous for not working together to solve problems or pooling resources. It is the “every town for itself.” This will change in the near future. It will have to for the sake of each person, each town and the state as a whole.

Christine Gerber: On Friday morning, I wore the shirt “Pay attention.” while on the beach because it was a little overcast and chilly. No one commented on the shirt or asked any questions.

Justin Good: “Question everything.” My friend Jeremy (Wang) said to me, “Vood, why don’t you question wearing that tee shirt, huh?” “What do you mean?” I said. And he said, “I mean, shouldn’t you question your questioning?” “Very funny, Wang,” I said. “I’m going to just question you a little more, Wang.”