

Worksheet #2: Your Designer Label: Creating Titles

"I remembered these women and I thought, yeah, but what are their names?"
- Terese Agnew

Sometimes, artists choose to label a work "Untitled." They may want to leave the piece open for more interpretation. But some titles can help the viewer understand an artwork better. Titles can add another layer of meaning to an artwork. Titles can be funny, shocking, or moving. A title makes it easier for people to talk about your artwork, because your artwork has a name. Terese Agnew thinks titles are important because they further communicate her ideas.

1. First, create a list of titles and names you know, such as artworks, movies, books, musical groups and songs, video games, sneakers, colognes, and other products. Which are your favorites, and why? What other ideas or feelings do they evoke? Try inventing new titles for some of the things on your list. If you could, would you rename certain things?

2. Next, cut out three pictures from the stack of magazines. Choose images that interest you. Cut strips of paper to write titles on. Invent titles for the images, write them on the paper, and try them out next to the image. Try several titles for each image. Can you change the meaning of the image depending on the title you add to it? Ask a friend what they think about your titles.

3. Going back to your sketch plan for your quilt, try out several titles, considering what you want to communicate with your work. Can a title add to the meaning in your work?