NANCY PLETOS: CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE

MIRROR (c. 1980)

UNTITLED (c. 1979)
THEME: Materials and their Symbolic Connection
AUDIENCE: Young Adults and above
ARTIST TECHNIQUE: Sculpture
ARTIST: Nancy Pletos

IN PREPARATION

Grab a pencil and print out the Venn diagram (located on the next page). Label one side Mirror and the other Untitled (c. 1979).

QUESTIONS FOR INVESTIGATION

1. What are the similarities and differences you see in the two sculptural works? Think of materials, geometric forms, color, and scale. Write this in the Venn diagram you made earlier.
2. What connection can you make between the two works conceptually? How does this reflect upon the artists choices during the time these works were created?
3. What do these works mean to you? Do you personally connect to these works in any way?
4. Do you think these two works are related based on your findings? If so, do you think this is intentional?

SUMMARY

Nancy Pletos had the distinctive ability to transform mundane objects into intricate sculptures that all fit together to compose an artistic vision that challenged the feminine standard of art. These materials that Pletos uses were found during a time of action and struggle where she uses to her advantage to create an autobiographical and intense connection that has been altered into beautiful table-top sculptures. The use and transformation of common place materials reveal personal, political and art making trends both in the 1970’s and today. Challenging the aesthetics of art and social norms much like other contemporary artists, Pletos challenges this relationship within her work through the use of her materials and context while continuing to inspire emerging artists who are also reaching for a change.