The students began their investigation of “Night Zag Wall” with a series of 4” x 4” studies that recorded oppositions observed in the sculpture (top). Conditions of deep|shallow, regular|irregular, static|dynamic and others provided the students with a compositional understanding of the complex piece. The students then used one of their 4” x 4” studies to generate a pattern. The students then translated their patterns into individual layers and use the laser cutter to cut them. The layers were reassembled into new compositions where physical qualities of deep/shallow and positive/negative were explored.

Using 3-d modeling software, the students built a digital version of “Night Zag Wall” and then used that model to disassemble it into all of its parts. The students were encouraged to compose the disassembly in a logical way that revealed more about the part to whole relationship of the sculpture. Then, the students were asked to reassemble the parts of the Nevelson sculpture into new configurations that revealed ordering systems like grid, field, centric, radial, linear, pinwheel, and serial progression.

The final constructions were built in poplar, then painted black. For the final review, the assemblages were first arranged in a grid, then reassembled into various configurations to explore the relationship of the part to the whole as well as scale.