

WHAT CAN YOUR ART SAY?

VISUAL ART
GRADES: 6 - 8

OBJECTIVES

- Students will create an original work of art to inspire the viewer.
- Students will create an original work of art that “reuses, reduces, and recycles” materials (using found objects).
- Students will work in the style of the Saar women, creating an original work of art spontaneously as opposed to planning everything out.
- Students will create an original work of art using quotes that inspire them.
- Students will create an original work of art using good craftsmanship- cutting, gluing, presentation, and layout.

CONCEPT

In this lesson students will study the work of Betye and Alison Saar, artists who use found objects and work spontaneously. These two aspects of the Saar women’s work will inspire students to create their own found object artwork that incorporates an inspirational quote.

MATERIALS

Various left over art materials
Covers from old books
Recycled materials/found objects sought out by the students

Various types of glue- hot glue, tacky glue, modge podge, Elmers
Scissors
Magazines

VOCABULARY

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Craftsmanship
Collage

Quotes
Layout
Spontaneous

PROCEDURE

1. As a class watch the video on Betye and Alison Saar. Have students take notes for a discussion after the video.
2. Discuss the video, focusing on the use of found objects and the artists’ spontaneous process.
3. Discuss the power of words and various inspirational quotes. Have students choose a favorite inspirational quote to incorporate into their work.
4. Introduce the project, emphasizing the importance of craftsmanship.

CLASS EXPERIENCE

5. Using recycled book covers as their base, students cover their boards with images, found objects, and letters making up their quotes. Use a variety of adhesives -- hot glue for heavy and quick glue, Elmer for paper, tacky glue for fabric and lighter mixed media and modge podge for paper and magazine cut outs that students wish to seal.
6. Students share completed projects with class.

ASSESSMENT

Students will complete a self-assessment, asking the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about making this project?
- What is your quote?
- How does your quote inspire *you*?
- How would you like your quote to inspire *others*?
- What grade would you give yourself for this project? Why?

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Visual Art

1. Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes related to the visual arts.
4. Understands the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
5. Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own artwork and the artwork of others.

RESOURCES

Betye and Alison Saar: Conjure Women of the Arts. DVD. Created and produced by Linda Freeman. Written and directed by David Irving.