

ARE 6148: Art Lesson

Unit Title: Organic Artifacts of Earth

Teacher: Mr. Testa

Lesson Title: Mother Earth

Grade Level: 9-12

Estimated Completion Time: One Month

Overview

Students will investigate the work of Female Artists: Kay WalkingStick, Georgia O'Keeffe, Faith Ringgold, and Helen Frankenthaler. Students will compare the materials, methods, and perspectives of the artwork. Students will gain insight into different methods of preserving and protecting artwork. Parallels will be drawn across different methods of working with paint. Students will document the process of artmaking through Plein-air sketches and later through process photographs of their work. Students will create a work of art showing appreciation of the Earth, through the language of landscape. Students will also create an extensive investigation using (writing, drawing, or poetry) to understand the life and perspective, behind the brushstrokes of one or more of the included Artists.

Enduring Understanding

Through art-making, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.

Enduring Ideas/Essential Questions

- I. How does making art attune people to their surroundings?
- II. How do people contribute to awareness and understanding of their lives and the lives of their communities through art-making?
- III. How do life experiences influence the way you relate to art?
- IV. How does refining artwork affect its meaning to the viewer?

National Core Arts Standards: Visual Arts

CREATING

VA: Cr1.1.11a

Visualize and hypothesize to generate plans for ideas and directions for creating art and design that can affect social change.

PRESENTING

VA: Pr 5.1.11a

Investigate, compare, and contrast methods for preserving and protecting art.

RESPONDING

VA: Re 7.1 1a

Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences.

CONNECTING

VA:Cn10.1.1a Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas.

Lesson Objectives

- I. Students will **discuss** how art influences perception and understanding of human experiences..
- II. Students will **explain** connections between two of the artists presented.
- III. Students **generate** plans for ideas and directions for creating art and design that can affect social change.
- IV. Students will **determine** methods for protecting artwork.
- V. Students will **learn** about the work of Georgia O’Keeffe, Helen Frankenthaler, Faith Ringgold, and Kay WalkingStick.
- VI. Students will **make** connections between the work presented and local community work.

Tools and Materials

Internet

Smart Screen or Projector

Computer

Smartphones/Printed Materials

Word Processor

Dry Materials (Oil Pastel, Soft Pastel, Chalk Pastel

Mixed Media Paper)

Wet Materials (Acrylic Paint, Brushes, Water)

Mixed Media Paper (Bristol or Canvas)

Roll of Poster Paper

Permeant Markers

Introduction

The teacher will introduce the lesson by posing the question “**What is a Landscape?**” Students will share their ideas and the teacher will guide the discussion towards the language of landscape.

Procedure (Including Slides)

Background Information

Landscape, is the depiction of natural scenery such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, and forests, especially where the main subject is a wide view—with its elements arranged into a coherent composition.

This type of painting may or may not include man-made structures as well as people.

Landscape as an independent genre did not emerge in the Western tradition until the Renaissance in the 16th century (Encyclopedia Britannica).

*Teacher will introduce background information and facilitate discussion, leading to the introduction of Georgia O'Keeffe.

Georgia O'Keeffe at "291", 1917. Platinum print.

Artist: Georgia O'Keeffe

Born: November 15, 1887. O'Keeffe grew up on a farm near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

In the summer of 1929, O'Keeffe made the first of many trips to northern New Mexico. For the next two decades she spent most summers living and working in New Mexico.

O'Keeffe's work was inspired by the vast open landscapes of New Mexico, combined with Native American and Hispanic cultures.



Source: okeeffemuseum.org

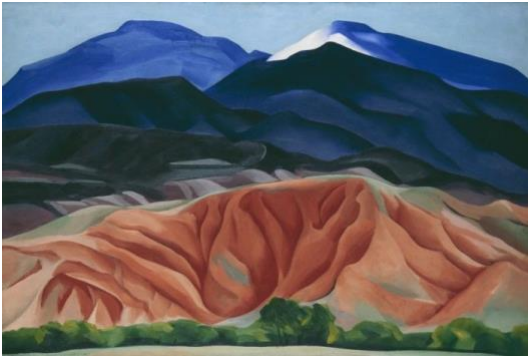
Documentary

Georgia O'Keeffe



*Students will learn about the life and artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe.

O'Keeffe's Landscapes



Source: The Burnett Foundation

***Black Mesa Landscape, New Mexico /
Out Back of Marie's II*** 1930,



Source: Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University

Rust Red Hills 1930, oil on canvas,
40.6 x 76.2 cm

*Teacher will show and facilitate discussion about O'Keeffe's landscapes.

Frankenthaler in her East 83rd Street studio, New York, 1969

Artist: Helen Frankenthaler

Her career spanned six decades, has long been recognized as one of the great American artists of the twentieth century.

She was eminent among the second generation of postwar American abstract painters and is widely credited for playing a pivotal role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting.

Through her invention of the soak-stain technique, she expanded the possibilities of abstract painting, while at times referencing figuration and landscape in unique ways.



Source: Getty Images

*Teacher will introduce the work of Helen Frankenthaler and show a video about her life as an artist.

SFMOMA Short

[Helen](#)
[Frankenthaler](#)
[Transcends](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Expressionism](#)



*Students will discuss similarities between two of Frankenthaler'

Frankenthaler 's Landscapes



Source: Gagolian.com, Photo: Rob McKeever

Fable, 1961 Oil and charcoal on unsized, unprimed canvas 94 ½ x 99 in.



Source: Gagolian.com, Photo: Rob McKeever

Untitled, 1958 Oil and charcoal on primed canvas, 78 5/8 x 83 ¼ in.

*Teacher will show installation video.

Installation Video

[Helen
Frankenthaler:
Imagining
landscapes Exhibit](#)



Source: Gagolian.com

*Students will watch the installation video, with a discussion after.

Mini Project: Plein-Air Gestural Sketches

*Teacher will introduce Mini Project, creating gestural sketches from nature.

Artist: Faith Ringgold

Faith Ringgold was born 1930 in Harlem, New York, is a painter, mixed media sculptor, performance artist, writer, teacher and lecturer.

During the early 1960's Ringgold traveled in Europe. She created her first political paintings, The American People Series from 1963 to 1967 and had her first and second one-person exhibitions at the Spectrum Gallery in New York.

In the early 1970's Ringgold began making tankas (inspired by a Tibetan art form of paintings framed in richly brocaded fabrics), soft sculptures and masks.

Faith Ringgold, 1993



Source: faithringgold.com

*Teacher will introduce the work of Faith Ringgold and show a documentary about her life as an artist.

CBS Sunday Morning

Faith Ringgold's
Art of
Fearlessness and
Joy



Ringgold's Landscapes



Source: faithringgold.com

Coming to Jones Road #5: A Long and Lonely Night, 2000
Acrylic on canvas with fabric border, 76 x 52 1/2 in.



Source: faithringgold.com

Coming to Jones Road #4: Under A Blood Red Sky, 2000
Acrylic on canvas with fabric borders, 78 1/2 x 52 1/2 in.

*Teacher will introduce the work of Kay WalkingStick.

Artist: Kay WalkingStick

Kay WalkingStick was born in 1935. Her work focuses on the American Landscape and its metaphorical significances, not only to Native Americans but also to all citizenry.

The landscape sustains us physically and spiritually. It is our beautiful corner of the cosmos.

My present paintings of mountains and sea are vistas of memory — our America the beautiful. They are meant to glorify our land and honor those people who first lived upon it (WalkingStick, 2015).

Kay WalkingStick, 1997



Source: kaywalkingstick.com

*Students will watch the documentary “Hear my Voice” and learn about her life as an artist.

Documentary

["Hear My Voice"](#)
[Artist Profile: Kay](#)
[WalkingStick](#)



WalkingStick's Landscapes



Source: americanindian.si.edu

***New Mexico Desert*, 2011.**
Oil on wood panel, 40 x 80 x 2 in.



Source: americanindian.si.edu

***Venere Alpina*, 1997.**
Oil on canvas (left), steel mesh over acrylic, wax, and plastic stones (right), 32 x 64 in.

*Teacher will introduce a research project, documenting the life and times of one of the included artists.

Extensive Investigation:

Using Drawing, Writing or Poetry investigate the life and perspective, behind the brush-strokes of one or more of the included Artists.

*Students will investigate one of the following artists.

Artists:

Georgia O'Keeffe

Helen Frankenthaler

Faith Ringgold

Kay WalkingStick

*Teacher will explain a timeline of selected events, putting everything in perspective.



*Teacher will facilitate student enjoyment in the final project, to create a landscape.

Final Project: *Mother Earth*

Create & Reflect

1. Using any media, medium or material: Create an original work of art capturing the landscape of Earth.
2. Reflect on your artmaking throughout the process, by photographing your work and write a short Artist Statement summarizing the work.

Distribution and Clean-Up

Materials will be organized, at stations grouped by similar tools. For example, the acrylic paint will be next to the sinks, paper towels, acrylic brushes, and recycled cardboard paint pallets. Students will be asked to gather materials, in a socially distant organized fashion by table. Students will be encouraged to clean their table, hands, and any materials used at the end of each period. "Used" materials will be separated to be disinfected before their next use. Students are expected to engage respectfully with materials, artwork, and other students.

Closure

The teacher will reinforce the lesson objectives and encourage student reflection on their work and performance by facilitating a group critique of the final projects. A conversation and sharing about the assignments leading up to the final project will guide the discussion throughout history. Students share their work with their peers and others through a folder on Google Classroom, and by the work hanging up in the classroom.

Assessments

- I. Documentary: Georgia O'Keeffe
- II. SFMOMA Short Film: Helen Frankenthaler
- III. Helen Frankenthaler: Imagining landscapes Exhibit Video
- IV. **Mini Project: Plein-Air Gestural Sketches**
- V. CBS Sunday Morning: Faith Ringgold
- VI. Hear my Voice: Kay WalkingStick
- VII. **Extensive Investigation: Drawing, Poetry, Writing**
- VIII. **Final Project**

- a. Create & Reflect
- IX. Group Critique

Artists or Works of Art Studied

- Artist, Georgia O’Keeffe
- Artist, Helen Frankenthaler
- Artist, Faith Ringgold
- Artist, Kay WalkingStick

References

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