Grade 6 Unit 3 - 3 Dimensional Mixed Media Sculpture

Unit Focus

This unit invites students to step into the role of a book artist, exploring how a book can be more than just a container for text, it can be a sculptural, mixed-media object. By analyzing the intricate works of artists like Lynda Wilson and Susie Leiper, students will discover the delicate balance between form and function. This unit is specifically designed to help students grow in the Profile of a Graduate (POG) competencies of Self-Awareness and Product Creation. Artistic growth begins with knowing yourself as a learner. In this unit, students use their sketchbooks to reflect on their own creative process. They are encouraged to identify what inspires them, acknowledge where they struggle, and seek feedback from peers to overcome creative blocks. Bookmaking is a structural challenge that requires a commitment to quality. Students move from initial sketches to a refined final product. By learning binding techniques they gain the ability to create authentic, high-quality physical objects that communicate their personal creative vision.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
Visual Arts: 6

- Formulate an artistic investigation of personally relevant content for creating art. (VA:Cr1.2.6.a)
- Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design. (VA:Cr2.1.6.a)
- Reflect on whether personal artwork conveys the intended meaning and revise accordingly. (VA:Cr3.1.6.a)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Product Creation: Effectively use a medium to communicate important information. (POG.3.2)
- Self-Awareness: Examining current performance critically to identify steps/ strategies to persist. (POG.4.1)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Create works of art to personally engage in the artistic process and/or communicate meaning
T2 Develop and refine techniques and skills through purposeful practice and application to become more fluent
T3 Make appropriate choices as a responsible, respectful participant within a communal artistic experience

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 Artists' creative choices are influenced by their expertise, context, and expressive intent.
U2 Artists make thoughtful choices about their use of skills, technique, and style to in hopes of creating a specific response for an audience.
U3 Interpretation of a work of art can be enriched by understanding context of the topic and perspective of the artist.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 What does quality look/feel/ sound like? How do I fine tune my work for and with an audience?
Q2 What (skill/technique) am I focusing on? How do I get better at this? How do I know I'm making progress?
Q3 What inspires me? Where do I get my ideas from?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 Elements of art and how each are used in a work of art: Line, shape, form, color
K2 Influence of artists
K3 Art vocabulary: book binding, spine, stab stitch, accordion book design, flip book, armature, craftsmanship

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 Transforming a 2D idea and turning it into a 3D form
S2 Skills: -learn how to construct a book using various ways of construction (using flip or stab stitch method) - transform a basic book idea into a 3 dimensional form - using wire, newspaper, cardboard, and various other recycled materials to construct an armature
S3 Using proper application of various materials for the finished sculpture: plaster gauze, paint, fabric, model magic, e.g.