Sculpture - Unit 3 - Everyday Objects

Unit Focus

In this unit, students will transform discarded materials into meaningful art, exploring the concept of recycled art as a powerful medium for creative expression and environmental awareness. By turning trash into treasure, students learn that materials can be given a second life, effectively reducing waste while challenging their own creative boundaries. This unit is aligned with our Profile of a Graduate (POG) framework, specifically fostering growth in Product Creation and Decision Making. Students will gather visual research and photographic references to translate everyday objects into three-dimensional sculptures. Throughout the construction process, students will make informed choices about which cardboard joinery techniques best suit their specific design, considering the structural consequences of each method.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
Visual Arts: HS Proficient

- Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas. (VA:Cn10.1.HSI.a)
- Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors. (VA:Cr1.1.HSI.a)
- Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art or design. (VA:Cr1.2.HSI.a)
- Explain how traditional and nontraditional materials may impact human health and the environment and demonstrate safe handling of materials, tools, and equipment. (VA:Cr2.2.HSI.a)
- Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural contexts to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress. (VA:Cr3.1.HSI.a)
- Establish relevant criteria in order to evaluate a work of art or collection of works. (VA:Re9.1.HSI.a)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Product Creation: Effectively use a medium to communicate important information. (POG.3.2)
- Decision Making: Make responsible decisions, based on potential outcomes. (POG.4.2)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Apply advanced cardboard construction and joinery techniques to solve complex design challenges and create stable 3D forms.
T2 Critically analyze and evaluate their own work and the work of others based on craftsmanship, structural integrity, and aesthetic principles.
T3 Utilize and maintain specialized cutting tools and studio equipment safely and effectively while managing recycled materials.
T4 Engage in critique to inform next steps or deepen examination of an artistic work

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 The structural characteristics of different types of cardboard dictate how it can be folded, scored, and manipulated.
U2 Specialized attachment techniques are essential to the processes that ensure a sculpture is stable and free-standing without relying solely on glue and/or tape.
U3 Recycled materials like cardboard have significant artistic potential and require specific tool safety and handling procedures.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 How can complex, real-world objects be broken down into basic geometric shapes for construction?
Q2 What artistic choices must be made to translate a functional 3D object into a cardboard sculpture?
Q3 How do specific cardboard attachment techniques, such as tab and slots, impact the structural integrity and aesthetic of a piece?
Q4 How do the structural limitations of recycled materials influence recreation of a manufactured object?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 The structural characteristics of various types of cardboard and how they can be manipulated.

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 Cardboard Construction: Utilize diverse attachment techniques to build a stable, free-standing sculpture

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings		
	K2 Diverse cardboard joinery techniques, including tabs, slots, brads, and flange joints. **K3** How to break down complex objects into basic geometric shapes for construction. **K4** The importance of maintaining accurate scale when recreating a real-world object in 3D. **K5** Safe handling procedures for precision cutting tools like X-Acto knives and box cutters.	**S2** Dimensional Translation: Convert the 3D features of an everyday object into cardboard components that mimic its form. **S3** Structural Problem-Solving: Identify and reinforce weak points in the sculpture to ensure durability. **S4** Detailing: Use additive techniques (layering) or subtractive techniques (exposing corrugation) to capture the textures of the original object.