

CREATING A COMPOSITION

Overview

Students will discuss the elements of art and principles of design as they collaborate to analyze and create a composition.

National Standards

- VA:Cr1.1.6a. Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.
- VA:Cr2.1.6a. Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

Materials/Works of Art

<https://jennalucente.com/projects>

Images of drawings and paintings by Jenna Lucente

Suggested works include:

Sandy, Irene and Katrina, 2017

Find me under the mistletoe, 2018

Tidal Bike, 2018

Displaced, 2018

Isle de Jean Charles, 2017

Now's not the time to debate the science, 2017

Discussion

Artists throughout history and across a variety of mediums use the elements of art (color, form, line, shape, texture, value, and space) and the principles of design (balance, unity, variety, emphasis, movement, pattern, and proportion) as the essential building blocks to creating artwork. Use the following questions to analyze and discuss the work of Jenna Lucente with your students.

Describe the lines, shapes, and forms you see in the composition.

Describe the foreground, middle-ground, and background. How are elements arranged within the space?

Describe areas of repetition, contrast, or emphasis that you see in the composition.

How are the elements of art used to create unity or balance in a composition?

Describe the mood or tone of the artwork. How are the elements of art and the principles of design used to convey a feeling or idea?



Activities

Create viewfinders and make quick thumbnail sketches of compositions found around the classroom using only basic lines and shapes to represent the outline of objects in the classroom. Challenge students to create a composition using only a limited number of the elements of art.

(Ex. Using only triangles of different sizes and orientations).

Divide students into groups or pairs and use large paper, markers, and colored paper to cut out shapes and draw lines to recreate the basic composition of a chosen work of art on large format paper. Remind students that this is an abstract version of the basic composition! Ask students to take turns revising and rearranging the elements to create a new composition and begin adding lines and shapes to their final piece. Remind students to experiment with changes to elements within their composition, including scale and sequence. After devising their final composition, students can adhere elements to their large format paper.

Reflection

Display works of art from each group/pair in order to compare and contrast the use of the elements and principles in works of art from each group.

How are the elements of art transformed through experimentation with the principles of design in each composition?

Discuss the process of collaborating to create a composition. How did you work together to generate ideas, experiment, provide feedback, and refine a final work of art?

Extension

Analyze and discuss works of art from different cultures and time periods to explore the use of the elements of art and the principles of design. How are they similar? How are they different?

