

STUDIO PRACTICES

Overview

Students will analyze and discuss the studio practices of contemporary artists in order to develop their own creative rituals for personal art-making.

National Standards

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

Materials/Works of Art

Video of Jenna Lucente <https://youtu.be/UHynAdbhAcg>

Video of Jennifer Borders <https://youtu.be/bTkrmP5JfKA>

Discussion

Throughout history, art studios have been spaces for production, experimentation, innovation, reflection, and creative expression. Beginning in medieval monasteries and Renaissance bottegas, studio spaces evolved as the materials and technology available have changed the way artists conceive and create works of art. Studio Thinking is a framework that was developed by teachers and researchers from Harvard's Project Zero, and it outlines eight habits of mind that are used by artists and how those habits constantly interact with one another throughout the creative process.

Studio Habits of Mind:

- Develop Craft (technique and studio practice)
- Engage and Persist (finding passion and sticking with it)
- Envision (imagining and planning)
- Express (find and show meaning)
- Observe (looking closely)
- Reflect (question, explain, and evaluate)
- Stretch and Explore (play, use mistakes, and discover)
- Understand Art Worlds (domain and communities)

Utilize the following questions to discuss the studios and practices of contemporary artists with students.

What do you notice about the artist's workspace? What materials, tools, images, or resources do you see?



Discussion Continued

Where do you see artists utilizing the “Studio Habits of Mind” throughout their process?

How do artists use experimentation and observation as part of the creative process?

Describe the role of play and reflection as parts of the creative process?

How do you organize your ideas and prepare before beginning your own work?

How do artists collaborate and connect to generate and refine ideas for artistic work?

Activities

Examine your classroom as a studio space. How is it organized and arranged for art-making? What materials, tools, images, and resources are available to support creating? How is the space similar to other artists’ studios?

Practice guided meditation or visualization routines to inspire students’ creativity and channel their energy for art-making.

Individually or as a class, encourage students to develop their own personal rituals or routines to prepare for art-making. Remind students to take a few minutes to practice their ritual or routine at the start of each class session.

Utilize art “warm up” exercises to prepare students for creating. Suggestions include:

- List or sketch 10 things that the color yellow (or another color) reminds you of
- Draw an object with as much detail as possible using a continuous line
- Draw an object in the air before sketching it on paper
- Draw a scribble, then turn it into something

Reflection

Why do you think it is important to have a dedicated space to work and create?

How are the studio Habits of Mind used throughout the creative process?

How are the studio Habits of Mind similar to other processes used for learning and creating

(Ex. Engineering design or scientific process)?

Extension

Compare and contrast images of other artists studios and workshops throughout history. Suggestions include Rembrandt, Vermeer, Courbet, Kahlo, Pollock, Warhol, etc. How has the artist’s studio changed over time?

Examine rituals and creative habits from other disciplines and subject areas. Suggestions include elite athletes, doctors, musicians, etc. How are the Habits of Mind similar to the rituals and processes used by professionals in other contexts?

Explore the work of Eric Booth and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi to learn more about habits of mind and creative engagement.

