

Lesson Three: Mixed Structures in Mixed Media

Lesson Three: "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" is appropriate for high school students. Lesson Four: "Our Green and Gray World" is appropriate for elementary or middle school students.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to express a theme (relationships between natural and human-built structures) in their art.
2. Students will be able to organize similar and contrasting parts (sizes, colors, or shapes) to create a unified image.

Preparation

Decide whether your students will create a photographic mixed media work (by using markers, paints, colored pencils, or cut photographs) or make a photographic mixed media photographic series. If they are not making their own photographs, assemble a collection of old magazines that include photographs of natural structures and structures built by people, or perhaps ask students to printout Internet photos. Decide whether you will introduce the Rule of Thirds. Preview "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint to select slides to display depending on which of the two assignments is more appropriate for your students and whether you will introduce the Rule of Thirds. It is always a good idea make your own sample both to show students and to identify potential problems in advance.

Resources

[Mixed Structures in Mixed Media PowerPoint](#)

Supplies

camera or camera phone

printer

old magazines (*National Geographic*, *Arizona Highways*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Popular Mechanics*, real estate brochures, etc.)

markers, acrylic paints or colored pencils

scissors

glue sticks

Activities

Review: Review the theme in life that "We all have relationships with both natural and built structures every single day" and the theme in art that "Artists connect and contrast the relationships between the 'green' and 'gray' in our world."

Also review the unit's four key questions:

1. SEEK: What ideas can I get from my own life and times? (natural & human-built structures)
2. LOOK: What can I see in the artwork? (organization of parts)
3. CHOOSE: How do I want my artwork to look? (organization of parts)
4. COMPARE: What other artworks are associated with the big ideas underlying this artwork? ("green" and "gray" theme)

Definition and Examples: Display "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint slides 1-3 to:

- Define and illustrate "green" and "gray" structures.

First Assignment and Samples: Display "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint slides 4-15 to:

- Introduce the photographic mixed media assignment.
- Illustrate artworks that mix photography with markers, cut paper collage and acrylic painting.
- Point out how "green" and "gray" elements in each are unified with similar or contrasting sizes, colors and/or shapes.

Second Assignment and Samples: Display "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint slide 16 to:

- Introduce the photographic mixed media series assignment.

Introduction to Convention for Organization: Display "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint slides 17 to 24 to:

- Define the Rule of Thirds.
- Show examples of artworks that are organized with the Rule of Thirds.

Step-By-Step Process: Display "Mixed Structures in Mixed Media" PowerPoint slides 25-33 to:

- Show steps in an artist's process of making two photographic mixed media series (a diptych and a triptych).
- Note the artist's unification of "green" and "gray" through her choice of similar or contrasting sizes, colors, and shapes.
- Point out her use of the Rule of Thirds.

In-Process Feedback: After students have selected their initial photograph, ask them to meet in small groups to share and solicit feedback from classmates (and teacher) about:

- why they chose their initial "green" or "gray" photograph,
- what media they are considering adding to the photograph,
- their ideas about what other ("green" or "gray") elements they could add,
- the pros and cons of unifying "green" and "gray" parts through similar or contrasting sizes, colors, or shapes.

Presentation: Display completed photographic mixed media works. Ask students to describe how their classmates created unity in their works. You might ask students to collaborate in groups to help individual students title their works to express the theme of "Green and Gray".

Art Vocabulary

mixed media

series

Rule of Thirds

horizontal

vertical

compositional

diptych

triptych

Other Vocabulary

structure

pedestrian

initial

intersection

Extension Activities

Collaborate with a science or social studies teacher to correlate this art unit with ecological or political discussions focused on the theme of "Green and Gray."

Assessment Guides

OBJECTIVE 1: Students will be able to express a theme (relationships between natural and human-built structures) in their art.

Exceeds Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work expresses a real or imaginary relationship between green and gray with drama, clarity, subtlety, or other effective overall impact.

Meets Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work expresses a relationship between green and gray.

Approaches Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work includes at least one green and one gray element.

Fails to Meet Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work contains only natural or only human-built structures.

OBJECTIVE 2: Students will be able to organize similar and contrasting parts (sizes, colors, or shapes) to create a unified image.

Exceeds Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work has strong unity achieved through the effective placement of all elements using similarity and/or contrast of sizes, shapes, and/or colors.

Meets Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work is mostly unified through similar and/or contrasting sizes, shapes, and/or colors.

Approaches Expectations: Some areas of the final mixed media photographic work are unified through similar and/or contrasting sizes, shapes, and/or colors.

Fails to Meet Expectations: The final mixed media photographic work has little or not effective organization.