

Post-Visit Activity: Paper Strip Still Life

Objectives

1. Students construct three-dimensional sculpture from two dimensional materials.
2. Students use value to create an illusion of three-dimensions on a two dimensional surface.

Supplies

- 18 x 24 inch white, 90-pound drawing paper
- Cardboard or canvas board approximately 9- x 12-inches
- Tape
- Scissors
- Paper cutter
- Stapler
- Wide range of graphite pencils 4H to 9B
- Drawing boards
- Spot lights, as possible

Activities

Ask students to cut pieces of 18 x 24-inch paper lengthwise into three-inch strips. They should have six strips when finished. Connect the strips together with stapler or tape creating one long strip. Twist the paper to make an open form sculpture and attach the sculpture to board.

Henry Moore makes an excellent example of an art historical context for this lesson. Moore used line as a dominant element in his sculpture and he emphasized the open, organic form.

Before asking students to begin to draw their sculptures, have them practice working with value. For example, ask them 1) to transform a circle into an illusion of a ball using gradual changes in value or 2) make a value scale. Renaissance artists provide excellent examples of artists' effective use of values to create strong illusions of three dimensions.

Direct each student to use his or her sculpture for a still life on 18 x 24-inch paper. Dramatic lighting will create a larger range of lights and darks on the sculpture. As possible, place dramatic lighting on the still life. Ask students to capture the value ranges to create the appearance of a three-dimensional object.

Decide whether you will include a paper making extension activity either before or after your TCA visit. If your students make paper before their visit, they can use the various papers you (or they) collected for analysis in that process. If your students make paper after their visit, they can use their "Exploring Paper at the Tempe Center for the Arts" worksheets and/or their paper strip sculptures (after drawings are completed) in the paper making process.