

Cal State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program
Art Exploration
Summer 2005
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Course Overview

Philosophy: The creation of art is enhanced by an appreciation of the art that has come before.

Students will be introduced to the principles of design through an exploration of significant historical art and art movements. Students will experiment with different media in creating art projects.

Course Description

Art Explorations is a class that explores art in its many aspects. Each unit will begin with the introduction of a particular artist or group of artists. The class will be given a brief biography, and an historical overview of the importance of their artwork. The class will then be given assignments that will reflect concepts, considerations, limitations, and /or points of view of the art and artists that were introduced. One critical aspect of the assignments will be to use a variety of materials in order to gain an understanding of the different expressive qualities of those materials. The concept that art is driven by aesthetic considerations, expressive intentions and the “magic” that the creative use of materials can bring is one key element in the class.

The class will explore the earliest art through the art of the 20th century: from the cave paintings in Spain and France to post-modern movements such as minimalism and pop-art. In each section art from different periods will be introduced to provide the understanding that artists have been faced with the same problems and have been applying similar principles to address those problems.

As the students become more comfortable with one another and as they become more familiar with the vocabulary of art, the concept of critique will be introduced. Initially the historically significant pieces will be evaluated. Eventually the same critical principles will be applied to the student’s own work and to the work of classmates.

The initial assignments will be based on specific historical movements or periods or will be responses to a specific artist’s work. Each early assignment will use a specific medium. As the class progresses one or two of the later assignments will be about personal expression. The students will be asked to draw or paint an idea or an

object of personal importance. They will be allowed to use the medium of their choice.

Throughout the course, observational drawing skills will be applied and criticized. However the emphasis in all assignments will be experimentation. The development of facility will be important but secondary to the development of the confidence required to take risks.

The last week will include a summation of the continuing discussion of the value of art and its connection to society and the individual: art as it anticipates, reflects, and responds to trends in society; art as a mode of personal expression.

Course Goals and Objectives

- **Goal:** Students will develop a visual arts vocabulary
 - **Objective:** *Students will create artwork applying the principles of design. Student will describe the principles of design used in historically significant works of art, their own work and the work of classmates.*
 - **Objective:** *Students will present reasoned arguments about the artistic value of artworks and respond to arguments put forward by others in classroom critiques.*
 - **Objective:** Students will respond to, analyze, and make judgments about works in the visual arts.

- **Goal:** Students will solve visual arts problems by effectively using the elements and principles of design.
 - **Objective:** *Students will apply the rules of one and two point perspective in creating a work of art.*
 - **Objective:** *Students will learn and apply the principles of texture, tonality, balance, dominance, abstraction, line, etc.*

- **Goal:** Students will refine their observational drawing skills.
 - **Objective:** *Students will draw and / or paint from still life with increasing observational skills and facility*
 - **Objective:** *Students will draw portraits with increasing observational skills and facility.*
 - **Objective:** *Students will paint landscapes with increasing observational skill and facility.*

- **Goal:** Students will explore and develop increasing skill in a variety of media.
 - **Objective:** *Students will use pencil, charcoal, watercolor, India ink, gesso, artist's pastels, crayon, assemblage and gouache with increasing facility.*
 - **Objective:** *Students will learn to understand and make use of the inherent qualities of different media to maximum effect.*
 - **Objective:** *Students will gain an understanding of the effects and appropriateness of different media for different assignments.*

Course Textbooks

There will be no required textbooks for Art Explorations.

Homework, Classwork and Test policy

Every student will be expected to take notes during lecture.
 Students can expect approximately 2 hours of homework per week.
 There will be three quizzes on lecture material worth 20% of the total grade.
 The majority of assignments will be in-class assignments with some homework time allotted to complete them.

Course Materials

Each student needs a sketchbook, drawing pencils, crayons, and a set of watercolors and watercolor brushes. Additional materials will be provided by the SAEP.

Student/ Parent Agreement

Please have the bottom portion returned to your teacher tomorrow with all necessary signatures.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name _____

Student signature _____

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____