Do Ho Suh:
Community Quilts: I, Me, We, Us

VOCABULARY

Individual
Community
Conflict
Identity
Independence
Collaboration

MATERIALS

Square of fabric approximately 4 x 4
Fabric scraps
Fabric paint/markers
Fabric Modge Podge
Large piece of foam board or canvas for creating the quilt

BEFOREHAND

Tour Do Ho Suh’s exhibition, Passage, at The CAC.
Collect materials
Research the artist and collect images of Some/One and Who Am We? to share with the class.

“I just didn’t want to sit down and cry for home. I wanted to more actively deal with issues of longing”
Visit the CAC and tour Do Ho Suh’s exhibition, Passage. Discuss how the artist’s memories of and connect to home inspired him to create installations replicating several of his former and present dwellings. Discuss how the artist uses translucent fabric as well as rubbings to render each home in astonishing detail.

Extend your visit by learning more about the artist Do Ho Suh and some of his earlier work. Introduce the installations Some/One and Who Am We?

Discuss how these works address one of Do Ho Suh’s reoccurring themes exploring the inherent conflict that exists between an individual’s identity and the community or group they are part of.

Discuss how Do Ho Suh uses personal and individual items such as military dog tags or high school yearbook photos to create a larger work in his exhibits Some/One and Who Am We?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being part of a community?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a life centered on the individual?

Does the role of an individual change when part of a collective unit?

In Some/One and Who Am We what happens to the uniqueness of each individual item when it becomes an element of the larger work?

Would the artwork change when an individual element is removed?

How are the needs of the individual and the community at times in conflict?

How does Do Ho Suh explore this conflict in his work?
PROCEDURE

Introduce the project to the students. Explain that they will design and create individual works of art on fabric that will be combined to create a class quilt.

Have the students use their name or initials as the base for their design.

The students can use a piece of paper to sketch their design. Once finished they can use Fabric Modge Podge, fabric scraps, fabric paint/markers and even needle and thread to decorate their individual fabric squares.

Once completed affix the individual squares on a canvas drop cloth (or similar large piece of fabric) using Fabric Modge Podge to create a community quilt.

Discuss the completed project. How is the collective design dependent on each individual square? How would the design be affected if one square were absent? What happens to the detail in each smaller square when viewed as part of the larger composition?

EVALUATION

Evaluate the student's participation in the class discussion.

Evaluate the student's effort in designing and completing their artwork.