

GLENN KAINO: IN SEARCH OF A NEW MODEL

GRADE LEVEL: 3-12



“Kit-bashing” refers to a model maker’s term, which involves using pieces of different model kits to make something new. Glenn Kaino uses this technique in a conceptual manner as a way to consolidate improbable materials from various fields of study. Kaino then uses the juxtaposition of materials to address themes of identity, politics, technology, and digital media in his art.

OBJECTIVE

Students will work in groups to use pieces from various puzzles, games, kits, and electronics to construct their own 3-dimensional works of art. While building students will consider the ways that the piece is manipulated through this assemblage. Once completed students will hold a critique in order to discuss the meaning of their newly Kit-bashed pieces.

MATERIALS

- Found “kits”
- Glue, glue dots, duct tape, wire, wire cutters for holding things together
- Scissors
- Hot glue for ages comfortable with using this material
- Screwdriver

BEFOREHAND

- Tour the Glenn Kaino exhibit at the CAC as a class.
- Purchase about 20 to 25 dollars worth of materials from your local thrift or dollar store. Kits to consider could be puzzles, games, old electronics, model kits, or anything that comes with directions.

VOCABULARY

- Kit-bashing
- Assemblage
- Sculpture
- Meaning
- 3-dimensional

DISCUSSION

- Share Images of Kaino's, In Search of a New Model (Photosphere), with the class. Discuss how the pieces from model kits of tanks, planes, and other machines are used to represent displaced communities.
 - How does Kaino draw these connections?
 - How does the meaning of the piece change as you step closer to it and see the pieces?
 - How does the meaning of a piece of a kit change if you are only looking at one piece versus the whole of the composition?

PROCEDURE

- Divide students into groups
- Begin by distributing kit materials to the class, encouraging communication between tables such as swapping of different materials.
- Instruct each group to build a collaborative sculpture or 3D work using found materials to create new meaning. Students can use any of the adhesive methods provided to hold their pieces together, but if their adhesive is showing, they must think about how this affects the viewer's perception of the sculpture.
- Once the sculptures have all been built have the students bring their works to the front of the room.

EVALUATION

- Have the group that is being critiqued come to the front of the room.
- Students will be instructed to complete a verbal DAI model of critique (Describe, Analyze, Interpret).
- Students will begin by describing what they see. This can include colors involved, materials used, and the process of assembly.
- Next, they will move on to the analyzing the work by looking for the Unity, Contrast, Focus, or Balance of the piece.
- Finally, the class will attempt to interpret the meaning of the kit-bashed piece and the group being critiqued will inform the class of their true intention.

RESOURCES

DAIJ Critique- <http://thevirtualinstructor.com/blog/the-steps-to-art-criticism>