

LAUREN HENKIN

Space Matters: Installations / Interventions



GRADE LEVEL - K-12



OBJECTIVE

This lesson allows students to learn about installation art and experiment with site-specific works, explore various media, and investigate the differences between sculpture and installation.

VOCABULARY

- Sculpture
- Installation
- Space
- Architecture
- Site-specific
- Intervention

MATERIALS

- Variable—consider paper, fabric, wire, wood, cardboard, boxes, clips, tape, etc.
- Paper and pencil

BEFORE HAND

- Visit the CAC exhibition Lauren Henkin: *Props*, or check out the website: <https://www.laurenhenkin.com/contemporary-arts-center-cincinnati>.
- Gather materials you think the students will use.
- Decide if this lesson will involve an installation in your classroom, school, outside, or in another location like the student's home.

DISCUSSION

- Discuss sculpture. Establish what determines if an artwork is called sculpture. How do you define the boundaries of sculpture?
- Consider what changes when sculpture is made for a specific location.
- Discuss installation. Question what an installation is. Can it be installation if it can be placed in different locations?
- Henkin calls her works “interventions.” What does this word signify? How do you think this is different from “installation?”

PROCEDURES

- Brainstorm environments. What is special about the environment? What is its purpose? Is there something about it that sticks out? Have students journal their thoughts. Optional: Have a share out.
- Have the students brainstorm what kind of environment they’d like to create. How do they want someone to feel? What kind of experience do they want to create? Have the students journal their thoughts. Optional: Have a share out.
- Have the students consider what materials they’d like to use based on the above brainstorming and journaling.
- At this point, have students share their ideas.
- Open the group to suggestions and encourage critical thinking about spaces, experiences, and the materials. How do the choices reflect the experience and space?
- Put the ideas into action! Challenge the students to complete their installations. These could be individual or group projects.
- Have students document their process through journaling and photography.
- Encourage students to continuously evaluate their choices.
- Once installations are complete, have students discuss the process and how the installations affect/intervene in the space.

RESOURCES

- <https://www.laurenhenkin.com/>
- <https://www.theartstory.org/movement/installation-art/>
- <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/installation-art.htm>
- <https://davidcharlesfox.com/what-is-installation-art-description-history-and-prominent-artists/>