

SWOON: PERSONAL MESSAGES

GRADE LEVEL: 3-8

This lesson can be adapted for various grade levels



OBJECTIVE

Inspired by Swoon's artwork, the students will design and create a sticker that communicates something about themselves.

VOCABULARY

Street Art
Graffiti
Mixed Media
Identity

BEFOREHAND

Tour the Swoon exhibition at the CAC; discuss use of art to communicate.

DISCUSSION

- What is street art? How does it differ from art usually found in museums or galleries?
- Share photos of Swoon's artwork.
 - How does her work compare to the street art you may have seen in your city?
- Discuss the quote: "Street artist Swoon considers her work an addition to the naturally occurring collage of the city."
 - How do you think natural weathering and decay affect her work?
 - How do you feel the location for her installations affects her work and the community?

PROCEDURE

- Have the students begin by writing their name, choosing a pseudonym, or a word that means something to them on a piece of paper. Then have the students create a simple design to accompany this name or word.
- Students can start by incising the design on the Styrofoam sheet (or the linoleum block if you are doing a more involved printing making lesson)
- Once the design is complete, have the student roll pigment over the Styrofoam sheet evenly, then press onto the sticker paper.
- Once the paint is dry, use markers to finish details on the sticker—encourage them to be creative in their illustration.
- Have the students share their work in a large critique format, or have them discuss their design peer to peer. Talk about Letter Style, Form, Color, and Shape.

RESOURCES

- <https://swoonstudio.org/>
- <http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/exhibitions/2017/09/swoon>
- <https://www.artsy.net/artist/swoon>
- <https://99designs.com/blog/creative-inspiration/history-famous-sticker-art/>
- <https://stickerobot.com/blog/social/10-sticker-artists-to-following-on-instagram/>

