

Welcome to the UnMuseum®: Exploring Found Objects

Grade Levels K-4
Visual Arts
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Lesson Description:

In this lesson students will explore the use of found objects as seen in the UnMuseum at the Contemporary Arts Center. The entrance sign to the UnMuseum, created by Jack Rouse Associates, features various types of found objects. To further learning about found objects students will look at artists such as Robert Rauschenberg and Tara Donovan.

Students will compile a list of words used to describe the UnMuseum. From there they will choose one word to make into a sign using their own collected found objects. Turning the found objects into letters will allow students to learn different ways to assemble objects.

Objectives:

- Students will develop a creative list of words to describe the UnMuseum
- Students will explore other artists who use found objects in their artwork
- Students will gain an understanding of what a found object is and then construct a sign using collected found objects
- Students will learn about different ways to assemble various materials

Materials and Resources:

- Paper and pencils for creating lists
- 12" x 12" squares of cardboard (thin) – these are for students to draw and cut block letters from
- Extra paper and pencils for any preliminary sketching
- Poster board and markers for the class' list of found objects (hang this up when finished)
- Assembling materials: glue (bottle, gun, stick), tape, scissors, staples, etc.
- Selection of found objects (students will be collecting their own) such as buttons, bottle caps, boxes, craft supplies, cardboard tubes, etc.
- UnMuseum PowerPoint can be helpful to understand what this portion of the CAC is about – it can also be used to examine the UnMuseum sign
- Images of artwork by Robert Rauschenberg and Tara Donovan

Critical Questions:

- What are found objects?
- How do the artists Tara Donovan and Robert Rauschenberg use found objects?
- What are different ways to assemble found objects?

Activities:

Anticipatory Activities:

- Show students the presentation on the UnMuseum emphasizing the UnMuseum sign. Introduce the term "found objects" and show images of other artists such as Rauschenberg and Donovan who use found objects in their work.
- Have students individually generate a list of words that can be used to describe the UnMuseum.

- Together, have the class develop a list of examples of found objects to collect (this could include boxes, egg cartons, buttons, bottle caps, etc.)
- Over the course of a week students will collect found objects from their home, neighborhood, and immediate environment.

Art-Making Activity:

- Have each student choose one word from their creative word list (each student will be creating their own word).
- Students will receive one cardboard square for every letter in their chosen word.
- Have the students draw each letter using “block letter” techniques onto each cardboard sheet (in some cases students may need to practice drawing “block letters” or use stencils).
- After each letter has been drawn, students will cut them out.
- Students will then attach their found objects to the cut-out letters.
- In the end, the letters can be hung on a wall individually or connected to a solid backing of some sort so the whole word is connected to one background

Assessment:

- A generated list of words to describe the UnMuseum (minimum of 3)
- Collection of found objects (minimum of 5 different types)
- 3-dimensional construction of the chosen word and incorporation of found objects

National Standards:

K – 4.1 : Applying media, techniques, and processes

- Students know the differences between materials, techniques, and processes
- Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories
- Students use art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner

K – 4.2 : Using knowledge of structures and functions

- Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

K – 4.3 : Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

- Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art
- Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning

K – 4.6 : Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

- Students Identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum