

Artists, Poets and Radicals in Boston Public Art Art Activities for Young Adults

Extend your learning experience by trying out these related activities at home or in the classroom.

These projects are designed for high school teachers who would like to enhance their students' experience of the Public Art Walk. At the end of each project description you will find a list of educational frameworks standards. For more information on state frameworks visit the Massachusetts Department of Education website: www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks

Monuments to Culture

Design a structure to represent a specific population of people or to commemorate a particular historical event. Build a small-scale model with materials that you feel are appropriate to your subject matter and express your theme.

Create discussion in your classroom by examining other memorial sculptures:

- Compare how artists have represented people and their experiences in the Irish Famine Memorial and the Vendome Hotel Fire Memorial. Consider how these artists have chosen to move viewers through the space.
- Discuss the use of specific materials such as stone, glass, or metal in memorials such as the 9-11 Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial and the Hungarian Revolution Memorial.
- Learn about how artists make proposals by researching the work of Maya Lin and her work on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. and the Civil Rights Memorial Fountain in Montgomery Alabama.

Art Frameworks:

Create artwork that shows knowledge of the ways in which architects, craftsmen and designers develop abstract symbols by simplifying elements of the environment.

Visual Arts Frameworks (3.7)

Create artwork that demonstrates understanding of the elements and principles of design in establishing a point of view.

Visual Arts Frameworks (2.15)

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Voicing Opinions

Work with printmaking methods or computer software to design a poster which supports or objects to a social position or a political viewpoint. Explore the way artists influence society through their work.

Create discussion in your classroom by examining other work by graphic artists:

- Look at poster design from political campaigns, protest movements or propaganda. Compare work from different eras and cultures including posters designed during the Cultural Revolution in China, the Mexican Revolution and posters designed by W.P.A. artists during World War II.
- Compare the style of graphic work by different artists. Look at the woodcuts of Nicholas Posada and the lithographs of David Alfaro Siqueiros or Diego Rivera.
- Learn about the history of printmaking from the creation of the *Diamond Sutra* in China in AD 868, to the invention of the first printing press in 1440 to our current era of digital production.

Art Frameworks:

Make reasonable choices of 2D and 3D media, materials, tools, and techniques to achieve desired effects in specific projects.

Visual Arts Frameworks (1.13)

Create artwork that demonstrates a purposeful use of the elements and principles of design to convey meaning and emotion.

Visual Arts Frameworks (2.15)

Analyze a body of work, or the work of one artist, explaining its meaning and impact on society, symbolism, and visual metaphor.

Visual Arts Frameworks (5.11)

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Protest Art

Write a paper analyzing contemporary methods of expressing concerns and particular points of view.

Create discussion in your classroom by examining controversial art:

- Discuss the different forms of art that contemporary artists have developed to express their ideas or address an audience.
- View the work of individual artists and group collectives such as the intervention art of the Guerilla Girls, Barbara Kruger's installation art or the theatre work of the Bread and Puppet Circus.
- Learn about particular works of art that have stirred up controversy. Debate the legal issues involved in erecting a sculpture of the Ten Commandments in front of the Virginia State Capitol. Discuss the ways that museums reacted to the decision of whether to exhibit the work of Robert Mapplethorpe. View "Dred" Scott Tylor's student work "What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag?" and talk about the legal actions that were taken against viewers.

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