

## LESSON PLAN: Mixed-Media Art

By Amy Wunsch, July 2009

Learn about different materials contemporary artists use and create a mixed media collage.

### **Key Idea:**

Artists utilize non-traditional art materials to solve visual and aesthetic problems and present visual challenges to viewers.



### **Objectives:**

1. The student will become familiar with the work of several artists in the JCCC collection working with non-traditional materials through an instructor-led tour.
2. Students will use a variety of materials (including found, discarded, and used objects) to create a 2-D artwork. Options for lesson variety might be:
  - a. Students will create a collage with the theme of "A Day at the (Art) Museum." In addition to the mixed media available in the room, students will incorporate a color copy of their favorite artwork from the tour to create a vision of their time at the Nerman Museum.
  - b. Students may include a thematic reference to literature, cinema, or nature. Before work begins, each student will choose a personal theme for his/her artwork from a list generated by the class. The themes may come from literary or cinematic sources. Some possibilities:
    - "Oh brave new world that has such people in it..." Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.
    - "The Day the Earth Stood Still" or "When Worlds Collide" film titles
    - A line from A Wrinkle in Time or Oh, The Places You Will Go
    - "This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper." T.S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men."

### **Vocabulary:**

non-traditional: that which doesn't conform to the norm; not in accord with tradition.

abstract: the modification of a (usually) natural form by simplification or distortion.

narrative: art that tells or reveals a story.

collage: from the French meaning "paste up," collage is the combination of pieces of cloth, magazines and other found objects. Assemblage is a 3-D collage.

medium/media: the material or technique with which an artist works.

### **Materials Needed:**

Scraps of fabric, pipe cleaners, aluminum can tops, felt, yarn, raffia, buttons, beads, tissue paper, foam sheets, sequins, brass fasteners, pompoms, Twisteez wire, construction paper, grocery sacks, etc.

Markers, oil pastels, etc.

Scissors

Bottled white glue, glitter glue, glue sticks, glue dots, double stick tape (for fabric)

10" X 10" foam board for supports (or any size desired)

Printed color images of museum objects

**Tour artwork images:**



**Do-Ho Suh** (Korean, b. 1962)

*Some/One*, 2004

Stainless steel military dog tags, steel structure, fiberglass resin, fabric

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2003.02

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation in honor of their children



**Dennis Oppenheim** (American, b. 1938 - d. 2011)

*Performance Piece*, 2000

Fiberglass, stainless steel, firebrick and bronze

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2001.12

Acquired with the assistance of Grand Arts, Kansas City, MO



**Asad Faulwell** (American, b. 1982)

*Les Femmes D' Alger #52*, 2014-15

Acrylic, pins and photo collage on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2015.95

Gift of the H Tony and Marti Oppenheimer Foundation



**Jeffrey Gibson** (American Indian, Cherokee/Choctaw, b. 1972)

*American Girl*, 2013

Found punching bag, wool blanket, glass beads, steel studs, artificial sinew, tin jingles and chain

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2013.45

Gift of the H Tony and Marti Oppenheimer Foundation



**Ruth Root** (American, b. 1967)

*Untitled*, 2000-2001

Oil and collage on paper

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2011.65

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer