

LESSON PLAN: PATTERNS IN ART

By Amy Wunsch, November 2008

Key Idea:

Pattern is the repetition of color, shape, form, or texture in a work of art. Repetition creates a visual rhythm moving the viewers' eyes around the artwork. Contemporary artists use pattern to create movement, vibrant energy and unity in their artwork. Patterns can be regular or irregular, with a single element repeated, or multiple.



Objectives:

Students will discuss the concept of repetition and pattern as a principle of design. Students will brainstorm and the instructor will list activities or things that rely on patterning.

- Why do artists use repeated elements?
- What happens when you repeat an element over and over?
- How does a pattern move your eyes through a composition?
- What types of energy do different patterns create in artworks?

On an instructor-led tour of the Nerman Museum and art on campus, students will view a variety of paintings, textiles, and other works of art in various media.

Students will discuss weaving processes and vocabulary. Using a variety of materials, students will create their own plain-woven artworks over a wooden frame. Students will be encouraged to repeat colors, textures and shapes across the surface of the weaving to create energy, movement, and unity.

Vocabulary:

Pattern: repetition of a motif or an element (color, shape, form, line, texture) in an artwork

Warp: the set of yarns placed lengthwise in a loom, crossed by and interlaced with the weft, forming the long threads in a woven fabric

Weft: the horizontal threads that interlace with the warp in a woven fabric

Plain weave: the most common and tightest basic weave structure in which the filling threads pass over and under successive warp threads and repeat the same pattern with alternate threads in the following row, producing a checkered surface

Shuttle: a device in a loom used for passing or "shooting" the weft thread through the shed from one side of the web to the other, usually consisting of a boat-shaped piece of wood containing a bobbin on which the weft thread is wound.

Materials: Wooden stretchers, silk screen frames or picture frames (10" x 10") one per student

Flexible weaving materials (pipe cleaners, ribbon, plastic strips, plastic coated wire, paper strips, raffia, string, cloth strips, etc)

Embellishments (beads, charms, buttons, wood scraps, aluminum can tabs, etc)

Assessment: Students will write a label for their own artwork (including name, title, year created, media used) and include reasons why they created particular patterns, inspiration, etc.

Tour Artwork Images:



Benjamin Butler (American, b. 1975)

Fifty Five Trees at Sunset, 2006

Oil on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006.24



Irvin Trujillo (American, b. 1955)

Bumblebee, 2006

2 ply wool silk acid dyes, 2 ply wool warp

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2008.17



Juan Quezada (Mexican, b. 1940)

Red on Black Jar, 1999

Polychrome clay

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007.11



Kenneth Williams (American Indian, Arapaho/Seneca, b. 1983)

Strength to Overcome, 2009

13/0 Czech cut beads (new and vintage), vintage steel cut beads, ermine skins, dyed horse hair, metal bells, smoked brain-tanned deerskin, vintage wood broadcloth, brass beads, vintage glass (basket) beads, satin ribbon, human hair and cotton calico (linen)

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.68



Linda Haukaas (Puerto Rican/American Indian, Sicangu Lakota, b. 1952)

Commodification of Indian Art, 2009

Graphite on paper bag

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.53



Joe Feddersen (American Indian, Okanagan, b. 1953)

Parking Lot, 2003

Blown and sandblasted glass

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007.77



Nick Cave (American, b. 1959)

Soundsuits, 2005 and 2011

Found sequined and beaded materials, hand sewn, mixed media, mannequin and armature; Buttons, wire, bugle beads, basket, upholstery and mannequin

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006.48 and 2001.01

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation in honor of Sally Oppenheimer