South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Ada Caldwell
“Lines, Lines, and More Lines”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
Unit of Study: Ada Caldwell, painter

Title of Lesson Plan: Lines, Lines, and More Lines

Grade Level: 3 – 5
South Dakota Content Standards

Fine Arts:

Visual Arts Standard One 3-4
Students will use selected media and processes to express ideas or personal topics of interests.

Visual Arts Standard One 5-8
Students will interpret the concepts, stories, moods, or ideas in various works of art.

Visual Arts Standard Two 3-4
Students will understand selected techniques which give artwork detail.
South Dakota Content Standards

Fine Arts continued:

Visual Arts Standard Two 5-8
Students will describe the various techniques which give artwork definition and detail.

Visual Arts Standard Three 3-4
Students will describe how selected works of art have recorded and preserved history.

Visual Arts Standard Three 5-8
Students will investigate how the visual arts record, preserve and highlight history.
South Dakota Content Standards

Geometry:

3.G.1.2 Students are able to indentify points, lines, line segments, and rays.

4.G.1.2 Students are able to identify parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines.
Assessment Strategies

- Class discussion
- Observation of student participation
- Completion of 3 different types of line drawings on the computer
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Ada Caldwell.
- Students will define dichromatic.
- Students will differentiate between types of lines.
- Students will draw a picture using lines to show different types of emotions.
- Students will draw a picture of a city using only straight lines.
- Students will draw a picture of a city using only wavy lines.
Time Required

- One class period of 45 – 60 minutes

Materials/Technology Needed

- Ada Caldwell Prints: “Missouri Cabin” and “Trees, Rice Lake, WI”
- Access to computers for “Creating with Lines” activity (see link below)
- Drawing paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.
Ada Caldwell is an artist that moved to South Dakota from Ohio. She taught art at Yankton College from 1898-1899 and then at South Dakota State from 1899-1936. She is credited with being the teacher that discovered Harvey Dunn’s talent and encouraged him to continue his study of art at the Art Institute of Chicago. She is a tremendous artist that was well versed in many different types of art mediums, painting being just one of them.
Lesson Description

- Show students the two Ada Caldwell prints, “Missouri Cabin” and “Trees, Rice Lake, WI”. As a group have them provide details about what they notice about the two works (i.e. what the images are, where they are located, how old they are, they are only in two colors, the images are mainly just a series of lines, etc). Make a list of the student comments on the board and discuss the various observations.

- Explain to students that Caldwell made both of these two paintings using only two colors. This is called dichromatic. (You could discuss what monochromatic means and compare it to dichromatic.)
Lesson Description continued

- Define what a line is (it has a starting point and an ending point). Also discuss the type of lines that make up these paintings (straight lines, wavy lines, etc.).

- Next, have students log on to the online activity called “Creating with Lines.” This activity first explains the difference in the types of lines in art (straight, wavy, zigzag, thick, thin, horizontal, vertical, etc.).

- At the end of the tutorial students are given three tasks: draw types of lines that would show emotion, draw two cities - one using straight lines and one using wavy lines. Use this to let students practice.
Lesson Description continued

- As a class, discuss what they learned from the tutorial. Next, pass out drawing paper and other art supplies. Have students create a line drawing on paper (it could be one of the tasks from the tutorial, or it could be something else that you decide). The benefit to the students drawing on paper is that they have more control with their artwork, they can also use thick or thin lines, or a combination.

- Display these images in the classroom.
Enrichment

- Students could create an original work based on a story they are reading as a class or individually. Students would need to consider the type of lines, color, etc. to make sure they depict the appropriate feeling being conveyed by the author.
Bibliography/Resources

- South Dakota Print Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Ada Caldwell prints: “Missouri Cabin” and “Trees, Rice Lake, WI”

  <http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/art/g3u1.html>.

Ada Caldwell Presentation to Students
Ada Caldwell

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Ada Caldwell

- Born September 28, 1869
- Died 1938
- Attended University of Nebraska and Chicago Art Institute
- In 1898, accepted position as head of Art Department at Yankton College
Ada Caldwell

- 1899
  - Professor of Art and head of the Art Department at South Dakota State College (now South Dakota State University)
  - Set up the College Art Club which was open to students and faculty
  - Put together a traveling art exhibit every year for the Art Department
    - Open to public
    - No admission charge
Ada Caldwell

- Talented in many areas of art such as drawing and painting with watercolor and oil
- Taught Harvey Dunn when he attended South Dakota State College
- Encouraged Dunn to attend Chicago Art Institute
Bibliography

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Ada Caldwell

- Caldwell Painting Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Ada Caldwell painting: untitled (mountain landscape)

*For more information contact the South Dakota Art Museum
Missouri Cabin

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Trees, Rice Lake, WI

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Another Example of Ada Caldwell’s Artwork
untitled (mountain landscape)

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum