UNIT OF STUDY: Robert Aldern, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Relief Sculpture

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:

Fine Arts:
• Visual Arts Standard One 3-4 – Students will describe how visual arts tell stories, express moods, or convey ideas.
• Visual Arts Standard Two 3-4 – Students will understand selected techniques which give artwork detail.
• Visual Arts Standard Two 5-8 – Students will describe the various techniques which give artwork definition and detail.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
• Class discussion
• Observation using VTS
• Creation of a relief image graded by requirements in a rubric

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Students will learn about South Dakota artist Robert Aldern.
• Students will evaluate the art piece using VTS techniques.
• Students will define relief sculpture.
• Students will create a relief image out of Styrofoam plates.

TIME REQUIRED:
• One class period of 30 minutes

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
• Image of Robert Aldern’s relief image made out of brick at First Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minnesota titled “The Creation Story” (See link for the image under reference section)
• Styrofoam plates
• Pencil/pen

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Robert Aldern is known for his various church art by doing a variety of projects commissioned by various churches and businesses. He is also known for his series of prairie horizons. This lesson features some of those images.
**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**
- Show students an image of Robert Aldern’s brick relief work titled “The Creation Story.”
- Using VTS observation, have students answer questions like:
  - What do you see?
  - What makes this work unique?
  - How did the author create depth in this work?
- Discuss the answers to these questions as a class.
- Next, tell students that they will be creating their own type of relief image using Styrofoam plates. They will be pushing on the back of their Styrofoam plate with a pencil or a pen (it would work best using a broken pencil or a pen that has a lid that could be used to indent the Styrofoam, not break through it).
  - Ideas for images - students could write their name and create a design around the letters of their name, or you could relate the image to something you are working on in class.

**ENRICHMENT:**
Have students create their relief image out of a bar of Ivory soap or other materials like popsicle sticks, legos, etc.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:**
- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Robert Aldern
- For image of “The Creation Story”