South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Signe Stuart
“Styrofoam Designs”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
Unit of Study: Signe Stuart, painter

Title of Lesson Plan: Styrofoam Designs

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 an art project following requirements identified on a rubric
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Signe Stuart.
- Students will evaluate the art piece using VTS techniques.
- Students will explain how light can change elements of art.
- Students will create an art project using a punctured paper technique.
Time Required

- One class period of 45 minutes

Materials/Technology Needed

- Image of Signe Stuart’s works: “E”, “Duo 1999”, “Message 2 1999”, and “Shield 6 2006” (see link below to get image)
- Pencil/pens
- Styrofoam paper plates
- Paint
Background Information

- According to Signe Stuart’s Biographical Fragments, she explains that she made, “. . . works on paper, painting, scoring, puncturing and reassembling” (pp. 6). This lesson will explore one of her works in this medium.
Lesson Description

- Show students the image of Signe Stuart’s works: “E”, “Duo 1999”, “Message 2 1999”, and “Shield 6 2006”.

- Have students describe elements of this work using VTS observation. Some guiding questions might include:
  - What do you see?
  - How is color significant in each of these works?
  - What feeling do you get from these works?
    - Why?
  - What techniques did the artist use to create this image?

- Have students discuss the answers to these questions as a class.
Lesson Description continued

- Pass out a Styrofoam plate to each student. Have students use the bottom of the plate as the side that they will display.
  - Tell students that they will use their pencil to create their design. They can either punch *small* holes through the plate. They can create indentations in the Styrofoam, not pushing all the way through.

- Once they have their design created, have students paint over their designs.
  - You may want to limit students to use only one or two colors.
Enrichment

- Have students create an image (either using the raised, indented or punched technique) that relates to a story that they are reading, or something that they are studying in science or social studies.
Bibliography/Resources


- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Signe Stuart

- Correspondence, Signe Stuart to South Dakota Art Museum, [n.d.], Signe Stuart Papers, South Dakota Art Museum Archives, Brookings, SD.
Signe Stuart Presentation to Students
Signe Stuart

http://www.williamsiegal.com
Signe Stuart

- Born in New London, Connecticut in 1937
- Taught art at South Dakota State University, 1972 – 1994
- Major figure in South Dakota contemporary art
Signe Stuart

- Work falls into 2 general categories:
  - Works on sewn canvas
  - Works on paper
    - Scrolls

- Scrolls are made of sumi ink and acrylic on mulberry paper

- Images of abstract shapes, patterns, and rhythms are seen throughout the scrolls

- Images created on the scrolls are metaphors of nature
Bibliography

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Signe Stuart


*For more information, contact the South Dakota Art Museum
*To view more of Signe Stuart’s artwork, visit her website (www.signestuart.net) or contact the South Dakota Art Museum
Duo 1999

http://www.aobfineart.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=772
Message 2 1999

http://www.aobfineart.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=772
Shield 6 2006

http://www.aobfineart.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=772
Other Examples of Signe Stuart’s Artwork
Slice

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Endless Wave-Gold

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Construction

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Count

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum