Instructional Unit Title: Not Your Grandmother’s Art Aarrrrgh...It’s Parroty!

Media Arts

The teacher may provide a definition of humor (including satire, parody, slapstick, sarcasm, etc.) so that students can identify different types of humor and explain how various kinds of humor personally makes them laugh, cringe or alter their thinking.

The teacher may lead a guided discussion on humor in art so that students can articulate why an artist might choose to use humor as a method of communication.

The teacher may show examples of work by historical and contemporary artists that use humor in art so that students can become familiar with how humor, as subject matter, can stimulate laughter as well as explore serious and even painful subject matter in art.

The teacher may provide instruction on an area in the digital arts so that students can acquire basic techniques and proficiency and use those techniques in their artwork.

The teacher may give students definitions and examples of art concepts including juxtaposition, appropriation, transform/reform, symbol, metaphor, narrative, etc. so that students can use the newly defined terms to describe the expressive features and characteristics found in examples of artworks.

The teacher may have students research recent serious and not-so-serious local and national events so that students can brainstorm potential approaches in using art concepts to communicate through humor in works of art.

The teacher may review artistic planning strategies so that students can understand the role and importance of planning in the creative process and apply this process to fully develop the content of the artwork.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: Call for Comedy! The Side Splitting Comedy Festival is looking to add visual artists to the mix of comedians and performers. Your work will be interwoven into the festival and will be displayed or played at venues throughout the show. All work must represent a serious or silly recent local or national event using humor including satire, irony, parody and/or sarcasm. Submit your work now, and don’t miss the irrepressible absurdity of the festival that is turning heads locally and nationally!

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples.