



Academic Resources for Teachers & Students

**Illuminations of
Africa's Wildlife: Its
Beauty, Its Struggle
to Survive**

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6-8

kimballartcenter



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Lesson Overview

Lesson Plans

Designed to extend and enhance the learning experience of our exhibits while linking to core curriculum subject matter.

Lesson Objectives

- To identify environmental items or issues that are important and valued to the students. They may be centered around land, animals, air, water etc.
- Gather natural objects that can be made into an artistic representation of the environmental items/issues.
- Study and understand the work of Andy Goldsworthy
- Discover relationships between the environment and their creations.
- Art as activism
- Identify and discuss the five elements of art

Core Curriculum Tie-Ins

Sixth through Eighth Grades: Visual Art, Language Arts and Social Studies

Lesson Overview

On the ARTS tour, students will learn about the work of Beverly and Dereck Joubert, and their call to action through their profound and beautiful photography of endangered animals. This lesson extends that learning and explores how we can increase awareness and appreciation of important environmental ideas/items by showcasing the beauty and importance of them through art thereby creating our own call to action.

Length Of Lesson: One to Three Class Sessions

Supplies

- Teacher created slideshow of Andy Goldsworthy work (internet resources)
- Natural items found outside
- Glue
- Student drawing paper
- Digital camera
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils/drawing pencils
- Bristol board for placement of art creations

Illuminations of Africa's Wildlife: Its Beauty, Its Struggle to Survive

Exhibition Overview

Beverly Joubert's work is a call to action. Big cats, rhinoceros, and elephants are in crisis, facing extinction after years of rampant poaching and habitat loss. As artists, conservationists, and National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence, Beverly and her husband, Dereck Joubert, have spent decades fighting for these beloved creatures. Through their internationally renowned wildlife films and other conservation efforts, the Jouberts celebrate the stunning beauty and power of these animals, urging viewers to recognize the consequences of inaction.

With stories of this fight for survival, Beverly Joubert's photographs demonstrate the artist's deep compassion for her subjects. Her work at the Kimball Art Center is accompanied by thoughts, lessons, and illuminations by the Jouberts of their 30 year journey with some of the world's most remarkable wildlife.

Lesson Plan

- View the work of Andy Goldsworthy (Teacher made slide presentation). Discuss his work first in terms of the five elements of art i.e. line shape, value, texture, color. Students will be able to identify the elements in his work and order the elements in terms of visual importance.
- Second: Have students discuss what environmental ideas Goldsworthy's artworks bring forth. Discuss how the elements of art can make focal points, illuminate elements that are important etc.
- Have students talk about what is going on in their community in terms of environmental ideas such as electricity, water, land conservation, habitat conservation etc.
- Ask each student to pick an idea/issue they would like to represent artistically.
- If possible, walk to a park or natural area to gather materials. Also walking around the school grounds students may find the materials they need. Invite students to bring items from home such as shells, seeds, stones, etc.
- Begin assemblage of art. Experiment and gather more items from the school grounds as needed. Students arrange items and make sketches of the most successful compositions. Keep students focused on the idea they wish to portray through elements of art.
- Refine ideas. Complete construction of artwork. Photograph work with digital camera
- Create a slide presentation of student work. If time allows, work can be manipulated in Photoshop to enhance images.
- During the slide presentation, each student is to present his/her idea or issue they want to discuss and talk about why it is important. Then have each student highlight the elements of art they used to make their art.
- Allow time for class discussion of each art work.
- Have students submit a written paragraph with the following: 1) Identify the significance of the 5 art elements in their work; 2) Identify at least one relationship between the environment and their art and why its important.

Lesson Plan Continued

Lesson Extension

- Have students do a “focus down” drawing of all or part of their “installation” (lay a cardboard frame over the work to find an interesting part - photograph that part up close to capture details) - Draw from photograph observing carefully the details. Students could begin drawings outside if time permits. Paint focus down drawing with watercolors - or render with Colored Pencils Use circular, square or rectangular format. See nature paintings by George Dombek for a contemporary artist.

www.incredibleart.org

Resources:

www.wildlifefilms.com

www.ted.com/talks/beverly_dereck_joubert_life_lessons_from_big_cats

www.bigcatinitiative.com

www.causeanuproar.org

Great Plains Conservation

www.greenmuseum.org

Vocabulary

Change

Make or become different

Environmental Art

- Informs and interprets nature and its processes, or educates us about environmental problems
- Is concerned with environmental forces and materials, creating artworks affected or powered by wind, water, lightning, even earthquakes
- Re-envision our relationship to nature, proposing new ways for us to co-exist with our environment
- Reclaims and remediates damaged environments, restoring ecosystems in artistic and often aesthetic ways

Environmental issues

Are harmful effects of human activity on the biophysical environment.

Environmentalism

A social and environmental movement, addresses environmental issues through advocacy, education and activism.

Five Elements of Art

Line, shape, value, texture, color.

Conservation

The action of conserving something, in particular. Preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife.