

Classroom Activity

Curating the Classroom

Enduring Understanding	Curators classify, organize, and define artworks in relationship to each other and to an exhibition space.
Grades	5–12
Time	Two class periods
Visual Art Concepts	Curation, exhibition, checklist, planning, space, collaboration
Materials	Paper, pencils, postcards or color prints of artworks, student artwork
Talking about Art	<p>Curators organize exhibitions by carefully selecting works of art that share a common theme or origin. They decide how the artworks are best viewed in the space of a gallery and what story that arrangement of artworks tells. For example, in the <i>Burton Selects</i> exhibition (see the CD), museum curators and Tim Burton selected prints from LACMA’s collection that relate to the artist’s favorite themes and motifs such as humor, horror and fantasy.</p> <p>Choose a reproduction of an artwork for study and reflection. What did you first notice about this artwork? After looking at the artwork, what do you notice now that you didn’t notice at first? How does this artwork use color, narrative, composition, or space?</p>
Art Activity	<p>Find a partner or fellow curator to work with and discuss the artworks you selected. What is similar about the artworks that you and your fellow curator chose? How are the artworks different?</p> <p>Using a set of postcards, consider what other works might complement the works that you and your fellow curator chose. What categories could you use for choosing supplemental works (i.e., color palette, theme/narrative, style, time period, place of origin, artist, etc.)? Select two to three other artworks and create an exhibition checklist that includes the artworks you used as inspiration.</p> <p>Think of an indoor or outdoor space on campus where you could hypothetically mount your exhibition. Draw a blueprint, or map, of that space. How do the artworks in your checklist relate to one another? How will you organize the exhibition in a way that will both explain to viewers how the works relate and respond to the particular space you have selected? Add to your blueprint by sketching your exhibition layout.</p>

Art Activity

Repeat the activity above using students' completed artworks in place of artwork reproductions. Students should have at least two completed artworks to choose from to contribute to the classroom exhibition. Students will work in curation teams of three to five, answering the questions from the previous page in response to a peer's artwork. When the group reconvenes, students will create their team checklist by choosing one artwork from each member to exhibit. They should answer the second set of questions from the previous page in response to the classroom as a gallery space and sketch a plan for how they will mount their exhibition.

Reflection

What role did you play in your curatorial team? What role did others take? How did the different roles interact with each other? What made the exhibition a success? How does the completed exhibition compare to your original exhibition layout? If you could reorganize or remount it, what would you change? What will you title your exhibition?

Tim Burton: The Artist's Process

Selected Resources

Related Curriculum Materials

Evenings for Educators resources include an illustrated essay, color images or overhead transparencies, classroom activities, and related resources. Printed curriculum is available for purchase through LACMA's Education Department or browse selected curricula online at www.lacma.org (Programs/Education/Evenings for Educators).

Artists' Perspectives: Envisioning the World
April 2009

Telling a Story: Narrative and Symbols in Art
November 2007

Dali and Surrealism
December 2007

Online Resources

Tim Burton

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
<http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/tim-burton>
Features exhibition information and selected artworks. Browse Burton-related stories and videos on LACMA's blog, *Unframed*.

Burton Selects: From LACMA's Collection

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
<http://www.lacma.org/art/installation/burton-selects-lacmas-collection>
In conjunction with the exhibition, *Tim Burton*, LACMA invited the filmmaker to fill a gallery with works of his choosing from the permanent collection. Learn about periods of art history that resonate with Burton's vision.

Tim Burton

Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2009/timburton/>

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the major retrospective, organized by the Museum of Modern Art and on view in New York before its Los Angeles presentation.

The Fantastical Imaginings for Tim Burton

Australian Centre for the Moving Image
<http://www.acmi.net.au/ed-kit-tim-burton.htm>
<http://www.acmi.net.au/ed-kit-burton-gothic.htm>
These Education Resource Kits were designed for teachers by the second institution to host the retrospective, the Australian Center for the Moving Image. They explore Burton-esque imagery and the Gothic tradition.

What is a Print?

Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.moma.org/interactives/projects/2001/w-hatisaprint/flash.html>

Since the early Renaissance, drawings have been considered to be especially revealing of the artist's individual genius and style. Prints, by extension, distill the hand-drawn line to its essence and reproduce it for mass distribution. Learn more about the printmaking process with interactive explanations of the most popular printing techniques.

Pressure + Ink: An Introduction to Printmaking

Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.moma.org/explore/multimedia/videos/151/907>

Watch artists demonstrate various printmaking techniques in this multimedia introduction.

Books for Teachers

Bassie, Ashley. *Expressionism*. London: Sirrocco, 2005. A survey of Expressionist artists such as Max Beckmann, Otto Dix, George Grosz, Emil Nolde, and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner.*

Davis, Jessica Hoffman. *Ordinary Gifted Children: The Power and Promise of Individual Attention*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2010. An arts educator's narrative about redefining student potential and fostering a love for learning in all students.

Griffiths, Antony. *Prints and Printmaking: An Introduction to the History and Techniques*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1996. Learn more about the medium of printmaking through artworks from the British Museum's Prints and Drawings collection.

He, Jenny and Ron Magliozzi. *Tim Burton*. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2009. Published to accompany the originating exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, this book captures the evolution of Burton's creative practices. Illustrated with previously unseen works from the artist's personal archive.*

Robinson, Ken. *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative*. Mankato: Capstone, 2011. Expanding our notion of traditional intelligence to include an individual's creative capacity.

Books for Students

Burton, Tim. *The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories*. New York: Rob Weisbach Books, 1997. A children's poetry book written and illustrated by the filmmaker that prefaces his later *The World of Stainboy* series.*

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. New York: Tribeca Books, 2011. The classic tale that served as inspiration for Tim Burton's cinematic adaptation.

Poe, Edgar Allan. *Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*. New York: Doubleday, 1984. An anthology of the influential writer's works.

* Books available in the Museum Shop