Torn Paper Portraits  
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Subject: Art 8

Interval: Semester Class

Time: 10-12 Classes

Overview

Students in this class will take inspiration from portrait artist **Chuck Close**, who uses the **gridding method** to create hyperrealistic portraits of his subjects. Students will begin by gridding a “selfie”, or **self-portrait**, and accurately enlarging the portrait to double the size. Students will then evaluate **value** in their portrait, and using torn magazine pages, match color/value in their portraits in an accurate manner without the use of strong outlines.

Objectives

As a result of instruction, students will

* VA:Cr1.1.6: Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.
* VA:Cn11.1.6: Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.
  + Understand how Chuck Close’s painting style, working habits, and creative process have evolved throughout his career.

Activities

* Students will view a variety of Chuck Close’s portraits, and discover details about his working method both before and after he suffered a spinal cord injury. Students will watch the following video in which Close personally talks about how his working method has evolved and why he uses a grid. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_e-p5M0vhZI>
* Students will bring in or take a “selfie” in class, and begin with an accurate rendering of their portrait by gridding and proportionally enlarging the photograph.
* Students will view a demonstration on how value can be seen in black and white photographs. Students should complete a 10-step value scale in the color of their choice, and begin collecting a variety of monochromatic colors from magazine pages.
* Students will add torn magazine pages to their self-portraits, analyzing and matching values and colors to the correct spot in the portrait. Students should remember to create edges by juxtaposing values or colors, and not creating a rigid outline. Students will work until the entire portrait has been collaged with torn magazine papers.

Adaptations

Evaluation

See attached project checklist.

Materials

* Self Portrait
* 12x18” paper
* Pencils
* Rulers
* Magazines
* Glue

Other Resources  
Chuck Close explains why he follows a grid: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_e-p5M0vhZI  
Chuck Close explains his physical challenges: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlwCC6bIDDs

Performance Task: Pastel Flowers

Student Name:

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| Project Criteria | Possible Points | Self Evaluation | Teacher Evaluation |
| Elements and Principles of Design:   Portrait is rendered with accurate proportion.  Plans design in regards to the edges and corners of rectangular paper.  Uses observation and portrays accurate value. Uses monochromatic colors to form edges of shapes without adding outline. | 30 |  |  |
| Creativity and Critical Thinking:  Student has produced a unique solution to the visual design problem.  Evidence of personality was incorporated into your design. | 30 |  |  |
| Craftsmanship:  Artwork is neat and shows concern for excellence in final presentation (all torn magazine papers glued down tightly, appropriate amount of glue). | 20 |  |  |
| Reflection:  Artwork demonstrates evidence of revision, reflection, and thoughtfulness. | 10 |  |  |
| Completion:  Student fully covered their collage with little to no white space in between torn magazine pieces | 10 |  |  |

Comments: