

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

Dear Educator:

During this whole group lesson, your students will learn about different types of exhibition labels, explore what good object labels do, analyze object labels, write an object label, revise their object label, and submit their object label to the Student Visual Arts Exhibition at the Autry Museum of the American West. Please facilitate this lesson by doing the following:

INTRODUCTION

- A) Give copies of the INTRODUCTION to your students and/or project the INTRODUCTION on a screen.
- B) Ask your students to take turns reading the INTRODUCTION out loud with the whole class to learn about different museum exhibition labels.
- C) Have your students look closely at the label images as they are reading information about the different types of museum exhibition labels.

PART 1

- A) Give copies of PART 1 to your students and/or project PART 1 on a screen.
- B) Ask your students to take turns reading PART 1 out loud with the whole class to learn about what good object labels do.
- C) After reading, have your students analyze two object labels in pairs or groups by looking at the artwork, reading the object labels, and answering the questions in the charts.
- D) Review with your students the different ways that the object labels do what good object labels do.

PART 2

- A) Give copies of PART 2 to your students and/or project PART 2 on a screen.
- B) Have your students write object labels for their own artwork.
- C) Ask your students to analyze their object labels, or have someone else analyze it, by looking at the artwork, reading the object labels, and answering the questions in the chart.
- D) Have your students revise their object labels based on the answers to the questions in the chart.

PART 3

- A) Ask your students to submit information about their artwork along with their object labels to the Autry Museum by completing the online application using the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AutryStudentVisualArts2025>.

PART 4

- A) Assist your students with the submissions process using the following instructions, schedule, and guidelines:
https://theautry.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/SVA2025-Submissions_0.pdf.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

INTRODUCTION – In addition to displaying selected student artwork, the Atry Museum’s Student Visual Arts **Exhibition** also features labels. Museum exhibitions have different types of labels with different kinds of information on them. One type of label that can be found in a museum exhibition is a title label. A title label lets visitors know the name of the exhibition. These types of labels are generally short, and they are found near the start of the exhibition. The image below is of the title label from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition. This exhibition’s title was the *8th Annual Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Visions of Freedom*.



Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Glossary

Exhibition: a display of artifacts and/or artwork

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED – Another type of label that can be found in a museum exhibition is an introductory label. An introductory label lets visitors know the main idea of the exhibition. These types of labels are generally longer, and they are usually located near the title label. The image below is of the introductory label from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition. This introductory label is located close to the title label, and it provides information about the main idea (*Visions of Freedom* theme) of the exhibition.

TITLE LABEL



INTRODUCTORY LABEL

Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Glossary

Theme: topic

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED – Section labels can also be found in a museum exhibition. Section labels let visitors know the different sections of an exhibition. These types of labels tell visitors what the objects in a particular section all have in common. The Student Visual Arts Exhibition is divided into different sections by school name. The image below shows a section label from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition. This section label lets visitors know that all of the artwork in this section was made by students from the Hesby Oaks Leadership Charter.



Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED – Another type of label that can be found in a museum exhibition is an object label. Object labels provide detailed information about an object like an **artifact** or an artwork. Object labels can be placed in different locations near (e.g., above, below, in front of, or to the side of) the object it is describing. Object labels can also be placed in a booklet as shown in the images below. You will be writing an object label that provides detailed information about the artwork you create including your school name, name, grade, artwork title, and a short description that tells the story of your artwork. The first image below is of the label booklet from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition. Beneath the image of the label booklet is an image of an object label that can be found in the label booklet. If you are submitting an artwork for this year’s Student Visual Arts Exhibition, you will also need to write an object label. The activities in this lesson will help guide you through the object label part of the submissions process.

**LABEL
BOOKLET**



Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.aie.m2/Las Fotos Project.

OBJECT LABEL

Ella Birnbaum, Grade 10
Conscious Drives

Feeling the wind on your face, music blasting from the car speakers, a sunset in the distance—vivacious drives like these are the highlights of my days. When these adventures occur, the rest of the world disappears, and I can finally take a step away from reality. My artwork portrays my version of feeling free, being disconnected from the real world. Free from the confusing and challenging atmosphere of my cluttered life.

Glossary

Artifact: an object made by a person

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 - What do good object labels do? Since you will be writing an object label for your artwork, you will learn about what good object labels do. Good object labels do the following:

A) Include basic information about the artwork such as:

- the artist's school name.
- the artist's name.
- the artist's grade.
- the artwork's title.

B) Tell the story of the artwork in a paragraph format by doing one or more of the following:

- explaining what the theme means to the artist.
- describing how the artwork relates to the theme.
- sharing why the artist chose to represent this vision of the theme in the artwork.
- including what the artist wants visitors to learn from the artwork.

C) Engage visitors by encouraging them to interact with the artwork by doing one or more of the following:

- by pointing out things for the visitors to look at in the artwork.
- by asking the visitors to answer a question.
- by encouraging the visitors to use their five senses (feel/hear/see/smell/taste).
- by encouraging the visitors to think about or to do something.

D) Are concise (short, brief, and to the point) or about 75-125 words in length.

Now that you have learned about what good object labels do, **analyze** an object label from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition to see if it does what good object labels do. Start by looking closely at the *artwork* below and reading the *object label* next to it.



Viridian Art

Ella Birnbaum, Grade 10

*Conscious Drives**

Feeling the wind on your face, music blasting from the car speakers, a sunset in the distance – vivacious drives like these are the highlights of my days. When these adventures occur, the rest of the world disappears, and I can finally take a step from reality. My artwork portrays my version of feeling free, being disconnected from the real world. Free from the confusing and challenging atmosphere of my cluttered life.

Glossary

Analyze: to study or look closely at

*Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 CONTINUED - After looking closely at the artwork and reading the object label on the previous page, think about whether or not this object label does what good object labels do. Then answer the questions in the chart below.

Basic Information

Does the object label include basic information? Please put a checkmark next to the basic information that is included:

_____ artist's school name

_____ artist's name

_____ artist's grade

_____ artwork's title

Story of the Artwork

Does the object label tell the story of the artwork in a paragraph format? Please put a checkmark next to the ways that the object label tells the story of the artwork. Please note that the 2024 theme was *Visions of Freedom*.

_____ explains what the theme means to the artist.

_____ describes how the artwork relates to the theme.

_____ shares why the artist chose to represent this vision of the theme in the artwork.

_____ includes what the artist wants visitors to learn from the artwork.

Engaging

Does the object label engage visitors? Please put a checkmark next to the ways the object label engages visitors:

_____ points out things for the visitors to look at in the artwork.

_____ asks the visitors to answer a question.

_____ encourages the visitors to use their five senses (feel/hear/see/smell/taste).

_____ encourages the visitors to think about or to do something.

Concise (Short, Brief, and to the Point)

Is the object label concise or 75-125 words in length? Please put a checkmark next to the statement if it is concise.

_____ The object label is concise or about 75-125 words in length.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 CONTINUED - The object label you analyzed on the previous pages does lots of things that good object labels do! Review the different ways that this object label does what good object labels do by looking at the orange arrows and reading the text next to the arrows.



*Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Artist's school name → **Viridian Art**

Artist's name → **Ella Birnbaum, Grade 10** ← Artist's grade

Artwork's title → *Conscious Drives**

Encourages visitors to use their senses: feel, hear, and see. → Feeling the wind on your face, music blasting from the car speakers, a sunset in the distance – vivacious drives like these are the highlights of my days. When these adventures occur, the rest of the world disappears, and I can finally take a step from reality. My artwork

← Points out things for visitors to look at in the artwork.

Describes how the artwork relates to the theme. → portrays my version of feeling free, being disconnected from the real world. Free from the confusing and challenging atmosphere of my cluttered life.

← Explains what theme means to the artist.

↑
Concise at 71 words.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 CONTINUED - Analyze another object label from the 2024 Student Visual Arts Exhibition to see if it does what good object labels do. Start by looking closely at the *artwork* below and reading the *object label* next to it.



Sierra Madre Middle School

Jasmine Ung, Grade 7

*Let Freedom Bloom**

In my artwork, *Let Freedom Bloom*, I've sculpted a narrative of freedom using Play-Doh, choosing a young, powerful Black female character. Her direct gaze is a testament to resilience, self-awareness, and an unyielding claim to self-worth and self-determination. This choice reflects a deep respect for the struggle for freedom, acknowledging both its historical depth and its present-day challenges. The vibrant flowers, leaves, and vines that adorn her represent the flourishing of individuality and creativity that true freedom nurtures. For me, these elements symbolize growth, rebirth, and the unapologetic expression of one's identity and heritage.

Let Freedom Bloom is my visual ode to freedom's power to inspire, transform, and empower. It celebrates the connection to our roots and the potential to reach our fullest selves. Through this piece, I aim to invite reflection on freedom's essence and to foster a dialogue that resonates with the beauty and complexity of the human spirit.

My hope is that audiences, especially young girls, will see my sculpture and feel empowered to embrace and be proud of their inner and outer beauty. This piece is a call to recognize and celebrate the diversity of paths to freedom and the vibrant tapestry of experiences that shape our understanding of what it means to be free.

*Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 CONTINUED - After looking closely at the artwork and reading the object label on the previous page, think about whether or not this object label does what good object labels do. Then answer the questions in the chart below.

Basic Information

Does the object label include basic information? Please put a checkmark next to the basic information that is included:

_____ artist's school name

_____ artist's name

_____ artist's grade

_____ artwork's title

Story of the Artwork

Does the object label tell the story of the artwork in a paragraph format? Please put a checkmark next to the ways that the object label tells the story of the artwork. Please note that the 2024 theme was *Visions of Freedom*.

_____ explains what the theme means to the artist.

_____ describes how the artwork relates to the theme.

_____ shares why the artist chose to represent this vision of the theme in the artwork.

_____ includes what the artist wants visitors to learn from the artwork.

Engaging

Does the object label engage visitors? Please put a checkmark next to the ways the object label engages visitors:

_____ points out things for the visitors to look at in the artwork.

_____ asks the visitors to answer a question.

_____ encourages the visitors to use their five senses (feel/hear/see/smell/taste).

_____ encourages the visitors to think about or to do something.

Concise (Short, Brief, and to the Point)

Is the object label concise or 75-125 words in length? Please put a checkmark next to the statement if it is concise.

_____ The object label is concise or about 75-125 words in length.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 1 CONTINUED - The object label you analyzed on the previous pages does lots of things that good object labels do! Review the different ways that this object label does what good object labels do by looking at the orange arrows and reading the text next to the arrows.



*Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @O.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Artist's school name → **Sierra Madre Middle School**

Artist's name → **Jasmine Ung, Grade 7** ← Artist's grade

Artwork's title → *Let Freedom Bloom**

Points out things for visitors to look at in the artwork. →

Describes how the artwork relates to the theme. →

Encourages visitors to think about and to do something. →

Includes what the artist wants the visitors to learn from the artwork. →

In my artwork, *Let Freedom Bloom*, I've sculpted a narrative of freedom using Play-Doh, choosing a young, powerful Black female character. Her direct gaze is a testament to resilience, self-awareness, and an unyielding claim to self-worth and self-determination. This choice reflects a deep respect for the struggle for freedom, acknowledging both its historical depth and its present-day challenges. The vibrant flowers, leaves, and vines that adorn her represent the flourishing of individuality and creativity that true freedom nurtures. For me, these elements symbolize growth, rebirth, and the unapologetic expression of one's identity and heritage.

Let Freedom Bloom is my visual ode to freedom's power to inspire, transform, and empower. It celebrates the connection to our roots and the potential to reach our fullest selves. Through this piece, I aim to invite reflection on freedom's essence and to foster a dialogue that resonates with the beauty and complexity of the human spirit.

My hope is that audiences, especially young girls, will see my sculpture and feel empowered to embrace and be proud of their inner and outer beauty. This piece is a call to recognize and celebrate the diversity of paths to freedom and the vibrant tapestry of experiences that shape our understanding of what it means to be free.

← Points out things for visitors to look at in the artwork.

← Explains what theme means to the artist.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 2 - After learning about what good object labels do, write an object label that gives detailed information about your artwork using the Object Label Format below. Please note that this year's theme is *Visions of the Future*. Write a good object label by looking back at the information you learned in PART 1 to help guide you. Then write your object label underneath My Object Label in the space provided or on a separate document.

Object Label Format

Artist's School Name

Artist's Name, Artist's Grade

Artwork's Title

Tell the story of your artwork in a paragraph format, in an engaging way, and in a concise way.

My Object Label

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 2 CONTINUED - Does your object label do what good object labels do? Analyze your object label, or have someone else analyze it, to see if it does what good object labels do. Start by looking closely at your *artwork* and reading the *object label* on the previous pages. As you are reading your object label, analyze it by answering the questions, or by having someone else answer the questions, in the chart below.

Basic Information

Does the object label include basic information? Please put a checkmark next to the basic information that is included:

_____ artist's school name

_____ artist's name

_____ artist's grade

_____ artwork's title

Story of the Artwork

Does the object label tell the story of the artwork in a paragraph format? Please put a checkmark next to the ways that the object label tells the story of the artwork. Please note that this year's theme is *Visions of the Future*.

_____ explains what the theme means to the artist.

_____ describes how the artwork relates to the theme.

_____ shares why the artist chose to represent this vision of the theme in the artwork.

_____ includes what the artist wants visitors to learn from the artwork.

Engaging

Does the object label engage visitors? Please put a checkmark next to the ways the object label engages visitors:

_____ points out things for the visitors to look at in the artwork.

_____ asks the visitors to answer a question.

_____ encourages the visitors to use their five senses (feel/hear/see/smell/taste).

_____ encourages the visitors to think about or to do something.

Concise (Short, Brief, and to the Point)

Is the object label concise or 75-125 words in length? Please put a checkmark next to the statement if it is concise.

_____ The object label is concise or about 75-125 words in length.

After your object label has been analyzed, look at the chart above to see what information has been left unchecked. Read the unchecked information in the chart. Then revise your object label by seeing if you can add any of the information that has been left unchecked to your object label on the previous pages.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Labels

PART 3 - Once your object label is final, submit information about your artwork along with your object label by completing the online application using the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AutryStudentVisualArts2025>.

PART 4 - If you haven't already, submit your artwork to the Autry Museum using the following instructions, schedule, and guidelines: https://theautry.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/SVA2025-Submissions_0.pdf.