

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

Dear Educator:

During this whole group lesson, your students will learn about the Student Visual Arts Exhibition: *Visions of Connection* theme, review different types of artwork, plan an artwork that represents the theme, create the artwork, and submit the artwork to 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 the Autry Museum's Student Visual Arts Exhibition.

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 this year's Student Visual Arts Exhibition theme.
- C) After reading, have your students write down any images, phrases, and/or words that pop into their minds when they think of the word "connection."
- D) Ask your students to share with the whole class the images, phrases, and/or words that they wrote down.

PART 2

- A) Give copies of PART 2 to your students and/or project PART 2 on a screen.
- B) Have your students research the word "connection" and write down its different meanings in pairs or groups.
- C) Ask the pairs or groups to share with the whole class the different meanings of the word "connection."

PART 3

- A) Give copies of PART 3 to your students and/or project PART 3 on a screen.
- B) Ask your students to take turns reading PART 3 out loud with the whole class to learn even more about this year's Student Visual Arts Exhibition theme.
- C) After reading, have your students write down what the word "connection" means to them.
- D) Ask your students to share with the whole class what the word "connection" means to them.

PART 4

- A) Ask your students to describe to the whole class different types of artwork that they have made or are familiar with.
- B) Give copies of PART 4 to your students and/or project PART 4 on a screen.
- C) Ask your students to take turns reading PART 4 out loud with the whole class to learn about different types of artwork.
- D) Have your students look closely at the artwork images as they are reading the artwork descriptions.

PART 5

- A) Give copies of PART 5 to your students and/or project PART 5 on a screen.
- B) Ask your students to plan an artwork that tells a story about the word "connection" by completing the chart and making a sketch of the artwork.
- C) Have your students share their artwork plan and sketch in pairs or groups.

PART 6

- A) Using their artwork plan and sketch from PART 5, ask your students to create their artwork.

PART 7

- A) Assist your students with the submissions process using the following instructions, schedule, and guidelines: [2027 Student Visual Arts Exhibition Call for Submissions](#).

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

INTRODUCTION - The Autry Museum of the American West is a museum located in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California. The Autry Museum's **mission** is to bring together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. One of the ways that the Autry Museum tells stories about the diverse peoples of the American West is through objects. Objects can be **artifacts** or artwork. Since 2016, the Autry Museum has invited students in grades 6 through 12 to tell their own stories through artwork by submitting their own **two-dimensional (2D)** artwork to the Student Visual Arts **Exhibition**. The Autry Museum displays selected student artwork in the museum during its Student Visual Arts Exhibition each year as shown in the image below. If you are interested in submitting your artwork for this year's Student Visual Arts Exhibition, the activities in this lesson will help guide you through the artwork part of the submissions process.



This image was taken at the 8th Annual Student Visual Arts Exhibition titled *Visions of Freedom* on April 20, 2024. Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Glossary

Artifacts: objects made by people

Exhibition: a display of artifacts and/or artwork

Mission: a person, group of people, or organization's purpose

Two-dimensional (2D): something that is flat and has length and width

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

PART 1 - The **theme** for the upcoming Student Visual Arts Exhibition is *Visions of Connection*. When you think of the word “connection,” what images, phrases, and/or words pop into your mind? Write these images, phrases, and/or words in the space provided or on a separate document.

Connection: Images, Phrases, and/or Words

Glossary Theme: topic

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

PART 2 - The word “connection” has many meanings. Learn more about the word “connection” by researching its different meanings using a dictionary, an online dictionary, and/or another **source**. After researching, write the different meanings of the word “connection” in the space provided or on a separate document. Please **cite** your sources.

A) _____

Source: _____

B) _____

Source: _____

C) _____

Source: _____

D) _____

Source: _____

E) _____

Source: _____

Glossary

Cite: to give credit to

Source: a piece of evidence like a primary or secondary source

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

PART 3 - Learn even more about the word “connection” by reading the additional information that the Autry Museum has provided about this year’s theme: *Visions of Connection*.

ABOUT THE THEME: *VISIONS OF CONNECTION*

Connection is what binds us to one another, to the land, and to the stories that came before us. Across the American West, connection has taken many forms: the ties between families and communities, the relationship between people and the natural world, the threads linking generations and cultures, and the networks that bring distant places closer together. The history of the American West is, in many ways, a history of connection: rivers that sustained communities, trails and railroads that joined coasts, and traditions passed down from elders to youth that keep cultures alive. Yet connection has also been complicated, broken by distance, disrupted by change, and rebuilt in new ways as each generation finds its own means of reaching out to others.

What connects you to your family, your community, or your history? How do you stay connected to the people and places that matter to you? What role does nature play in your sense of connection to the world? How has technology changed the way we connect, for better or worse? Can connection exist across time, linking us to those who came before and those who will come after?

The Autry Museum of the American West invites students to submit original artwork for the eleventh annual Student Visual Arts Exhibition: *Visions of Connection*. We look forward to sharing your art at the museum.

After researching and learning about the different meanings that the word “connection” has, think about what the word “connection” means to you. Write what the word “connection” means to you in the space provided or on a separate document.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

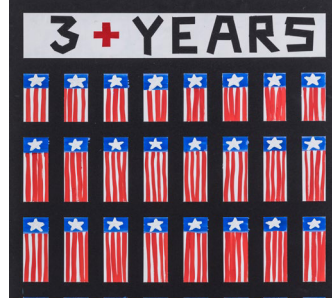
PART 4 - Before you tell a story about what the word “connection” means to you through a two-dimensional artwork, you will explore different types of artwork. Artwork can be collages, drawings, graphic prints, mixed media, paintings, photographs, and so much more. Learn more about some of the various types of artwork by looking at images from the Autry Museum’s **collection** and reading their descriptions.



Basket: a 3D artwork created by weaving plants and sometimes other materials together



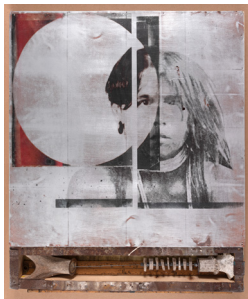
Ceramic: a 3D artwork made of material like clay that is hard from heat



Collage: an artwork created by attaching various materials to a surface that is flat



Drawing: a 2D picture of something using chalk, crayons, markers, pencils, or pens



Mixed media: an artwork that incorporates more than one type of medium



Painting: a 2D picture of something using paint



Photograph: a 2D picture of something taken with a camera



Print: a 2D work of art created by copying a picture from a surface with ink to another material



Sculpture: a 3D artwork made out of materials that are used in an interesting way



Video: a recording of visual images that may include audio

Glossary

Collection: a group of items that have been collected to study or to show to people

Medium: the materials used to create artwork; the various types of artistic expression

3D: something that is solid and has length, width, and height

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

PART 5 - After learning about different types of artwork, plan your artwork before creating it by answering the questions in the chart below. Write detailed answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	ARTWORK PLAN ANSWERS
What will your artwork be about? What story will your artwork tell about the word "connection"? Be specific.	You can tell a story about what the word "connection" means to you by showing one or more of the following in your artwork: Animals Landforms People Places Plants Types of Water Other Things	
What type of 2D artwork will you create?	Collage Drawing Graphic Print Mixed Media Painting Photograph Other Artwork	
What materials will you use to create your artwork?	Adhesives Markers Camera Paint Canvas Paintbrushes Chalk Paper Charcoal Pastels Colored Pencils Pencils Crayons Pens Cray-Pas Other Materials Ink	
What else will you include in your artwork?	Colors Lines Patterns Shapes Words Other Elements	
What will the dimensions of your artwork be?	5X7 Inches 8X10 Inches 11X14 Inches 16X20 Inches 20X30 Inches 22X32 Inches	

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

PART 5 CONTINUED - Using your artwork plan from the previous page, make a sketch (a simple and quick drawing) of what your artwork will look like in the space provided or on a separate document.

PART 6 - Using your artwork plan and your sketch from PART 5, create your artwork.

PART 7 - Submit your artwork to the Autry Museum using the following instructions, schedule, and guidelines: [2027 Student Visual Arts Exhibition Call for Submissions](#).

Resources

Images

A Gift From California, painting by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), acrylic and glitter on canvas, circa 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.9

Basket by Linda Aguilar (Chumash). Coiled horsehair, decorated with beads, shells, bingo markers, and cut up credit and debit cards, 2013. Gift of Monica Jane Wyatt, Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, Autry Museum; 2013.27.1

Laguna polychrome earthenware jar, by an unidentified Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico potter, circa 1880–1900. It features painted geometric designs and a spiral motif. George Wharton James Collection, Autry Museum; 421.G.210

Lithograph by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.331

Lost Hills (Yokut) 10.19.16, from the Power Series, panoramic photograph by Lewis deSoto (Cahuilla), 2016. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2018.56.1.1

Pima Sandwich, mixed-media photograph by Richard Bluecloud Castaneda (Pima Maricopa from the Salt River Reservation). Archival pigment transfer on aluminum and mixed media, 2016. Purchase made possible by Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2017.34.1

Southern Plains Indian ledger drawing, pencil and crayon on paper, circa 1882. General Charles McC. Reeve Collection, Autry Museum; 491.P.3441.11

To the Discriminating Collector, steel sculpture by Gerald Clarke, Jr. (Cahuilla), 2002. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2017.16.1

Video by Kristina Faragher, *Gaping Mouth*, 2006. Shot in Yosemite in 2006. The title of the work refers to the name first applied to the now-famous valley by its original residents. The Southern Miwok called the valley *awahni*, or “place like a gaping mouth.” Purchase courtesy of Kristina Faragher; original score by Mark Kozelek and special thanks to Curt Lemieux, Autry Museum; 2007.89.1

3+ Years, collage by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), undated, Autry Museum; 2016.10.213

Text

“Collage.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collage>. Accessed 26 Mar. 2021