

MINING LESSON PLAN:

Accidental Art Warm Up

by Sydney Porter Williams

A warm-up activity about intentional land art and prominent human-made features.

Objectives:

- Given definitions and discussion prompts, students will learn to contrast works of art and learn the term *intentionality*.
- Given art materials and discussion prompts, students will gain a deeper understanding of intentionality in art.

Grade level:

Intended for secondary students in various classes, including Utah history, Earth science, and visual art.

Duration:

20 minutes

Materials:

- Watercolor paper
- Liquid watercolors OR watercolor pens OR coffee/dark liquid
- Tracing paper
- Pens or pencils

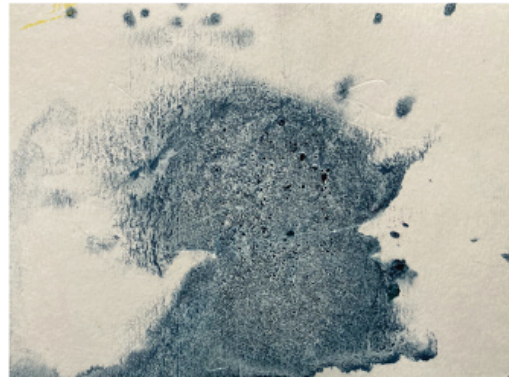
Vocabulary/Key Terms:

- Intentionality – The state of being purposeful and direct in action, thought, or word.
- Land art – The creation of artistic forms, often on a large scale, using local natural materials such as earth, sand, or rock. (Land art. (n.d.) *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition*. (2011). Retrieved October 3 2021 from <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/land+art>)

Activity

Artmaking Prep (3 minutes):

Students will drip paint, coffee, or ink to make an abstract mark on a small piece of paper.



Critical Looking (7 minutes):

While mark dries, students will contrast images shown by the teacher.



Bingham Mine (for more information about this art work, please see Additional Resources at the end of this lesson) and *Spiral Jetty*



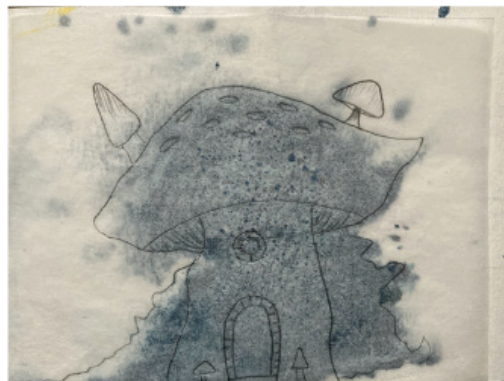
Image of fields and Disneyland flowers

- How are these images similar? How are they different?
- Are both of these images “art”? Why or why not?
- What makes something “art”?
- How is intentional mark making different from unintentional mark making?
- What does it mean to do something on purpose or on accident? Is something that looks like art but is unintentional still art?

Artmaking (7 minutes):

Students will lay a piece of tracing paper over their splash and turn the splash into something new.

Example of artworks:



Discussion/Clean up (3 minutes):

Students will discuss intentionality in their own work.

- Are both parts of your artwork art on their own? What makes something art?

Methods for Assessment:

- Did students participate in the discussion before and after the activity?
- Did students engage imaginatively in the drawing portion of the activity?

Additional Resources

State Core Links:

- [Standard L1.V.CR.3](#): Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.
- [Standard L3.V.R.2](#): Determine the commonalities within a group of artists or visual images attributed to a particular type of art, timeframe, or culture.
- [Standard ESS.4.2](#): Use computational thinking to explain the relationships between the sustainability of natural resources and biodiversity within Earth systems. Emphasize the importance of responsible stewardship of Earth's resources. Examples of factors related to sustainability could include costs of resource extraction, per-capita consumption, waste management, agricultural efficiency, or levels of conservation. Examples of natural resources could include minerals, water, or energy resources. (ESS3.A)
- [UT Standard 2.6](#): Students will explain how agriculture, railroads, mining, and industrialization created new communities and new economies throughout the state. (economics, geography)

Artwork Spotlight:

Edward Burtynsky, *Mines #22, Kennecott Copper Mine, Bingham Valley, UT 1983*, 1983, chromogenic color print. Purchased with funds from The Paul L. and Phyllis C. Wattis Fund, UMFA2012.6.1



Burtynsky took this image of Kennecott Copper Mine in 1983, but the mine has been working since 1903. It is one of the largest and most productive mines in the world today and can be seen from space.

Contributer Bio:

Sydney Porter Williams is a Salt Lake City-based teaching artist. Currently earning an MFA in Community-Based Art Education, she works to address issues facing Utah and the world today, including environmental problems, mental health struggles, and other difficulties our society is working through. Sydney is passionate about education and building community through artistic means and believes we can improve our world through conversation and collaboration.

Heading image | Photograph of the Buckeye Mine at Silver Reef, Utah, ca. 1885. detail, Mark A. Pendleton Photograph Collection, P0008, Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.