

InsideART, Spring 2024

OFFSET: Robert Rauschenberg at USF Graphicstudio

InsideART

Title

Robert Rauschenberg: An Introduction

Estimated Time for Completion of Lesson

1 Class Period

Concept/Main Idea of Lesson

Exploring the life and work of American painter, sculptor, and graphic artist Robert Rauschenberg

Intended Grade Levels

Grades 6-12

Infusion/Subject Areas

Visual Arts

Social Studies

Curriculum Standards**Florida State Curriculum Standards**

Visual Arts:

- VA.68.H.1 and VA.912.H.1
 - Through study in the arts, we learn about and honor others and the worlds in which they live(d).
- V.A.68.C.1.2
 - Use visual evidence and prior knowledge to reflect on multiple interpretations of works of art.
- VA.912.H.3.1
 - Synthesize knowledge and skills learned from non-art content areas to support the processes of creation, interpretation, and analysis.
- VA.68.C.1 and VA.912.C.1
 - Cognition and reflection are required to appreciate, interpret, and create with artistic intent.
- VA.68.S.1 and VA.912.S.1
 - The arts are inherently experiential and actively engage learners in the process of creating, interpreting, and responding to art.

Social Studies:

- SS.912.H.1.1
 - Relate works in the arts (architecture, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts) of varying styles and genre according to the periods in which they were created.
- SS.912.H.1.2
 - Describe how historical events, social context, and culture impact forms, techniques, and purposes of works in the arts, including the relationship between a government and its citizens.
- SS.912.H.2.3
 - Apply various types of critical analysis (contextual, formal, and intuitive criticism) to works in the arts, including the types and use of symbolism within art forms and their philosophical implications.
- SS.912.H.2.5
 - Describe how historical, social, cultural, and physical settings influence an audience's aesthetic response.

National Standards for Arts Education

- Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

National Council for the Social Studies Themes

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Global Connections

Instructional Objective

The student will be able to:

- examine the life and work of artist Robert Rauschenberg;
- consider Rauschenberg's experimentation across mediums;
- describe the scope and purpose of the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI).

Learning Activities Sequence**Prior to Class:**

Familiarize yourself with all lesson materials, review the Notes View at the bottom of the PPT slides. Activate the PowerPoint presentation and display slide 1.

Attention-Getter: Artist Introduction and Think-Pair-Share

Advance to slide 2

Tell students that today they will learn about American artist Robert Rauschenberg.

Ask for a volunteer to read the quote on slide 2.

THINK: Allow students a minute to quietly think about the quote and what it means to them.

PAIR: Have students pair up and discuss their ideas.

SHARE: Then, in whole class format, have each pair share their thoughts and engage in a class discussion.

Learning Activity: PPT-Guided Teacher Explanation and Note-Taking

Slides 3 – 28: Tell students about Rauschenberg’s life and work, pausing to provide details about his art (see the Notes View at the bottom of each slide) and answering questions students may have.

Encourage students to take notes during the presentation, making note of any works they would like to further research.

Closure (Slide 29): Read aloud the quotation and use the following question to prompt a closing discussion:

- What does Rauschenberg mean when he says that neither art nor life can be “made”?
- *What “gap” is the artist referring to?*

Evaluation/Assessment

Participation in class discussion, engagement in presentation, note-taking.

Materials and Resources

- PowerPoint Presentation: *OFFSET: Robert Rauschenberg at USF Graphicstudio (Day 1)*
- Pen and paper or student notebooks
- Computer with projector
- External speakers

Special Learner Accommodations

Things to consider:

- Extra time for note-taking
- Translation dictionaries for ELLs
- Visually-rich PPT
- Graphic organizers
- Small group discussions/cooperative learning
- Alternative assessment options

References

The Art Story. (2023). *Robert Rauschenberg*. The Art Story.
<https://www.theartstory.org/artist/rauschenberg-robert/>

Cardi Gallery. (2024). *Pop Art in transfer: The Biennale that wasn't*. Cardi Gallery.
<https://cardigallery.com/magazine/pop-art-in-transfer/>

Elia, C. (2020). *Robert Rauschenberg: A revolutionary sculptor and artist*. The Collector.
<https://www.thecollector.com/robert-rauschenberg/>

Esaak, S. (2019). Robert Rauschenberg's Combines. ThoughtCo.
<https://www.thoughtco.com/robert-rauschenberg-combines-4123111>

Needham, A. (2016). Robert Rauschenberg: "He was just something to be around." *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/nov/19/robert-rauschenberg-just-something-be-around>

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. (2023). *Overview: Life and Art*. Author.
<https://www.rauschenbergfoundation.org/>

Video Links

- Robert Rauschenberg | HOW TO SEE the artist with Sarah Sze. The Museum of Modern Art (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_nAKiSutiA). Examination and discussion of Robert Rauschenberg's *Bed* (1950), one of the artist's first "combines" (ordinary objects given new significance by placing them in the context of art).
- Robert Rauschenberg: Man at Work (1997), 57 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jpYTfdluuA>
Documentary about the life and work of American artist Robert Rauschenberg, who specialized in 3-D imagery constructed of found objects, particularly those of industrial origin. Features interviews with the artist himself.
- "Robert Rauschenberg | TateShots" (2017), 5:17 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m98blDqBhk>
Experts explain how Robert Rauschenberg blazed a new trail for art in the second half of the 20th century. Tate Modern's landmark Rauschenberg exhibition celebrates his extraordinary six-decade career, taking you on a dazzling adventure through modern art in the company of a truly remarkable artist. From paintings including flashing lights to a stuffed angora goat, Rauschenberg's appetite for incorporating things he found in the streets of New York knew no limits.
- Robert Rauschenberg: The Museum of Contemporary Art (2015), 4:20 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6RseaEqVQA>
Artist Harry Dodge, USC Professor of Art History Megan R. Luke and MOCA Chief Curator Helen Molesworth discuss Robert Rauschenberg's Combines. In these works, Rauschenberg removes the boundaries between painting and sculpture and turns his attention toward exploring the shared spaces between art and life.