

THE STRENGTH OF LACE

ART AND MATH

GRADES: 7-8

BASED ON

Ursula Von Rydingsvard (b. 1942)

Lace Mountains, 1986

Cedar, graphite

Museum Purchase: Weston Fund for Contemporary Art, 2004.1137

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the artwork of Ursula Von Rydingsvard.
- Students will discuss the artwork, *Lace Mountains*, by Von Rydingsvard.
- Students will create an original 3-dimension piece of art while working in groups.
- Students will learn about polygons, irregular and regular while applying them to creating art.
- Students will use cooperative learning strategies to write a description of art and create a final piece of art.
- Students will understand how ideas can influence the visual, spatial, or temporal characteristics of a work of art and discuss the reasons in history.
- Students will understand that an artist's life influences the subject matter of their artwork.

CONCEPT

Ursula Von Rydingsvard created *Lace Mountains* by carving individual cedar beams and laminating them together. Upon looking at *Lace Mountains* the viewer can sense a strength and natural ruggedness (terrain). The way the cedar is horizontally stacked is determined as Von Rydingsvard works to create just the right look she has envisioned. Von Rydingsvard said, "I don't necessarily make pieces to look like something, and I don't start with something specific in mind. I know how I want them to look, but I can't explain what that is. I keep working until it looks the way I want it to look."

VOCABULARY

Subjective
Objective
Description
Judgment
Support

Justify
3 dimensional/Sculpture
Regular polygons
Irregular polygons
Triangle

Quadrilateral
Pentagon
Hexagon
Octagon
Decagon

MATERIALS

Pictures of *Lace Mountains*
Paper/sketchbooks
Handouts on writing a description
of art

Handouts on polygons
Rulers
Pencils
Cardboard

Scissors
Glue

PROCEDURE

1. Place images of *Lace Mountains* on the students' work areas. Encourage them to look at the sculpture and talk about it together.
2. Next ask them to write a description of the work. Have the students work together but write separate responses in their sketchbooks.
3. Discuss *Lace Mountains* and how it was made.
4. Next give a handout with polygons on it and discuss them and how they are made and measured.
5. As a group (at their tables), the students need to decide on a size and then start drawing polygons on cut pieces of cardboard. After they have quite a few, students may start gluing them together so the polygons start to create a "push/pull" dynamic.
6. Discuss with student how they used the materials in a similar way to how Ursula Von Rydingsvard used cedar wood and placed it together to create her sculptures.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

VISUAL ARTS

Standard 1. Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes related to the visual arts.

Standard 4: Understands the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Standard 5: Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own artwork and the artwork of others

MATHEMATICS

Standard 4 : Understands and applies basic and advanced properties of the concepts of measurement

Standard 5. Understands and applies basic and advanced properties of the concept of geometry.



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