



OUR OREGON HISTORY

Jack McLarty

Grade Level: 4-10

Goals:

- Students will gain an awareness of important Oregon Artists
- Students will increase their understanding of different artistic processes.
- Students will analyze the relationship between an artist, his or her work, and the societies in which they have participated.

Themes:

- The artist as an individual
- The artist and society
- Art communicates ideas
- Artistic materials and processes

Curriculum Framework Emphasis:

- Social Sciences (History, Geography)
- The Arts
- Language Arts

Materials:

- Map of Portland
- Newsprint paper
- Watercolor paper
- Pencils (2B, 4B, 6B)
- Watersoluble color pencils
- India ink
- Watercolor brushes
- Journals or computers
- Internet access

Images:

- *Portland City Hall panels*

FOCUS QUESTIONS

When watching the City Hall section of the video, consider the following:

- How did McLarty approach the design of the panels?
- What can you learn about Portland history by looking at the panels?
- What are some of the stories that McLarty illustrated in the panels?

ACTIVITIES

To be completed after viewing the video:

Part A – Discovering Local History (1-2 class periods)

McLarty grew up near Portland City Hall, in the Portland City Hall Apartments. In approaching his own artwork, and developing his own style, McLarty took the approach of “do what you know”. McLarty knew about streets and marketplaces of Portland, and began developing his own style using what he knew as his foundation for imagery.

1. If possible, visit Portland City Hall to see McLarty’s work. Otherwise use the attached images of McLarty’s panels.

2. Using the internet, or interviewing people that you know, research the local history of your area. As you research your local history, think about the influences of the following:

- Important historical figures
- River traffic
- Land traffic
- Buildings
- Unique stories
- Important events

3. Compile facts and stories about your local area using the above list as a starting point in a journal, or on the computer.

Part B – Illustrating History (3-4 class periods)

1. Using newsprint paper and drawing pencils, draw images that illustrate the most important facts or stories you have compiled. Use one page for each idea.

2. Ask each student in the class to choose one image for their final piece. Then guide them in the following steps:

- Transfer the drawing onto watercolor paper using drawing pencils.
- Use watersoluble color pencils to complete the drawing.
- Use water to blend the colored pencil using watercolor brushes.
- Using small brushes, use the India ink sparingly for accenting the images. Notice the richness that the black ink gives to the other colors.

3. Locate a wall that will accommodate all of the drawings. Place the pieces together to create one final collaborative work, much like the panels McLarty created at Portland City Hall. Move the images around to find the most pleasing story line or composition. Attach the drawings to the wall using pins or tacky putty.

REFLECTION

Hold a kind class critique of each drawing, considering the following questions:

- How clear is the idea communicated in each piece?
- Look at the use of colored pencils, India ink and the blending of the two. How did each artist approach the blending of the two mediums?

CONNECTIONS

Ask each student to write a creative piece about their drawing. Compile the writings in one notebook. Grid each drawing to create a map that corresponds with each creative writing piece.

EVALUATION

Keep the artwork as part of an art portfolio.

Visual Art Rubrics:

A rubric for comparing the novice to the advanced learner in visual art.

<http://www.wrsd.net/artsrubrics.htm>

A simple art rubric for assessing student's artwork.

<http://www.goshen.edu/art/ed/rubric2.html>

A rubric for assessing students ability in art history, aesthetics, and art criticism.

<http://www.goshen.edu/art/ed/rubric3.html>

RESOURCES

On This Day in Oregon

<http://www.onthisdayinoregon.com>

A Place Called Oregon

<http://www.gesswhoto.com/>

Oregon Historical Society

<http://www.ohs.org/>

Oregon History & Genealogy Resources

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/oregon.htm>

