

Class 6: Aesthetics

Materials:

- Pictures of sculptures
- Legos or building blocks
- Play Doh

Goals:

- Consider ideas of beauty related to built objects and the built world
- Consider whether medium (sculpting/building material) has an effect on beauty
- Consider whether things with utility (homes) can also be beautiful and whether form or function should be prioritized

Timeframe (minutes):

Time	Activity
10 min	Introduction
10 min	Styles of art
25 min	Sculpting with Play Doh, Legos
End	Bye :(

Activities:

A. Introduction: 10 min

- a. Names and pronouns, “Have you ever been to a museum?” (what type?)
- b. Reminder of group rules: Raise your hand to talk, disagree respectfully, ask before you can touch things, take turns when sharing
- c. Short discussion:
 - i. What’s a museum? Are there different types?
 - ii. Who decides what goes in a museum?
 - iii. Do you always like what you see in a museum?
 - iv. What makes a museum good?

B. Styles of art activity: 10 min

- a. Print out pictures of different styles of sculpture– separate so they can be passed around, looked at closer– all representations of the human form
 - i. What do you think of these sculptures? Do they have anything in common? What’s different about them?
 - ii. *What do you like in these sculptures? Are some of them better than others? Why? (form, representation, colors)*

1. These are sculptures– do you feel like you can get the full idea from a photograph? Can you tell how big they are?
- iii. What are the different sculptures made of? Do you think it was a good idea to use X to make that? Does the thing that it's made of change how much you like it?
 1. Is it still art if it's made of something that people don't usually make art from?
- iv. All of these sculptures are representations of people (even the more abstract ones). Does that change how you feel about them?

C. Sculpting Activity: 25 min

- a. First: Play Doh: make an animal: say you have 3 minutes and use a phone timer
 - i. As they are sculpting: why did you choose that animal?
 - ii. Show and tell
 - iii. What makes a Play Doh sculpture (built object) beautiful?
 1. Form, color, representation, how complicated it is
 - iv. Are there some things you think it would be really hard to make out of Play Doh?
- b. If we were to give you Legos, would it be harder to make an animal?
- c. Give Legos: make a house (or an animal if you want) - 3 minutes again
 - i. As they are building: what are you adding to your house? Why?
 1. Are you adding this so that it's useful or so that it's beautiful?
 - ii. Show and tell
 - iii. Are there some things you think it would be really hard to make out of Legos?
 - iv. Would it be easier to make the house out of Play Doh? Would it be easier to make an animal out of Legos?
 - v. What makes a Lego sculpture (built object) beautiful?
 1. Form, color, representation, how complicated it is
 2. If one house is a more functional house than another (e.g. has more rooms, has better appliances), does that change how beautiful it is? Is a functional house more beautiful?
 - vi. *Do the things that make a Lego structure beautiful also make a Play Doh sculpture beautiful?*
 - vii. Do people have different styles that they go for in their sculptures?
 1. If we disagree, does one of us have to be wrong?
- d. Free build activity: Legos OR Play Doh
 - i. If students connect with the museum concept: We're going to make a sculpture museum. You can build anything you want for the sculpture museum. Go!

1. Emphasize that whatever they choose to build IS museum quality because it will go in OUR museum
- ii. Questions during building:
 1. What are you sculpting? Why do you think that thing should go in a museum?
 2. Do you think what you're sculpting is beautiful? Do things in a museum *have* to be beautiful?
 - a. Have you ever seen something in a museum that you thought wasn't beautiful?
 3. If your sculpture was made out of something different (e.g. cheese, stone), would it be more/less beautiful?
 4. Do you think that only really good artists get their artwork in a museum? Since we're putting your artwork in a museum, doesn't that mean you're a really good artist too?

D. Conclusion: Bye everyone!







