



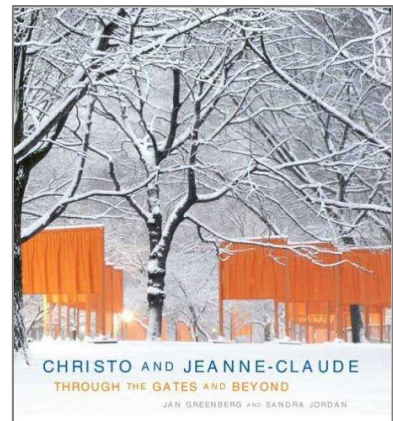
Connection through Textile Art

Book Connection



Textile art is art that uses fibers, such as fabric and thread, as a medium for making art. Textile art is a traditional art form that has taken up space in the contemporary art world through artists such as Faith Ringgold, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Do Ho Suh, Gabriel Dawe, and many more. *Fabric, Paper, Thread* by Kristen Sutcliffe is a great resource for a beginner in textile art. It has simple, accessible activities involving several different techniques, materials, and processes of making. It showcases the diverse methods and forms that textile art can take.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan discusses the artworks of the art duo Christo and Jeanne-Claude. This European couple is known for their larger than life fabric pieces. A thought-provoking take on the process and ideas behind these interesting artists and their artwork, this book is a great resource for those wanting to learn more about contemporary textile art.



Inspired Project

Textile art can involve many different materials, methods, and techniques. This project will focus on embroidery as mixed-media, collage material. The objective of this project is to expose students to textile art and embroidery in an open ended, accessible way. Materials needed are: needles (various sizes depending on teacher preference), thread (various types and colors depending on teacher preference), paper (watercolor paper works well, but any thick, durable paper works also), tape, glue, scissors, pencils, sketch books/paper, and collage material (photographs, magazines, newspaper, etc.) The theme for this project is connection; how things are connected or related. Students will be finding two images, from whatever collage source they'd like. They will then use embroidery as a way to "connect" them to each other. For example, the artwork by Hagar Vardimon-van Heummen creates connection between the plant and the surface with the embroidered pot. These connections they create can be physical like in the van Heummen

Houses and Plants image, or they can be metaphorical such a mother being “connected” to her child, etc.

1. To begin, students should browse their collage material and choose several images that they’re interested in. Encourage them to have “connections” in mind as they’re browsing. Using the images they’ve found, they should create several brief sketches of their collage. Remind them to include the embroidery portion in the sketches also.
2. Once they’ve finished and chosen a sketch, they should begin to collage. At this point they should also lightly sketch lines for their embroidery to follow.
3. The embroidery part of this is fairly open-ended according to the instructional preferences of the teacher. Students may choose to make samples on paper to practice before sewing their artwork. This is a great opportunity for students to learn on their own through exploration and self-directed learning. This website has simple, short tutorials on different embroidery techniques: <http://www.dmc-usa.com/Education/How-To/Learn-the-Stitches/Embroidery-Stitches.aspx>.
4. Tips for embroidery on paper:
 - a. Pre-punch holes where you’d like to sew before beginning to sew. This makes it a much cleaner and easier process.
 - b. Don’t put holes too close together. Depending on the size of the needle, this could create problems with holes getting bigger and thread ripping through the paper.
 - c. Tape may be used to secure the end of the thread on the back of the paper, in place of knots. This is optional, but provides a much cleaner finish as they glue the thread on the back when they’re done sewing.
5. When they’re completely finished sewing their paper, they should use a glue stick or glue with a brush to secure the ends of the thread on the back of their paper.



Image by Hagar Vardimon-van Heummen from *Houses and Plants*.

Related Artists

Christo & Jeanne Claude

Faith Ringgold

Do Ho Suh

Gabriel Dawe

Hagar Vardimon-van Heummen

Emily Barletta

Jane Denton

Quilts of Gee’s Bend

Michael Anthony Simon

Jeila Gueramian

AR Visual Art Standards 7-8 & 9-12

Creating – Content Standards 1-3

Connecting – Content Standards 10-11

Additional Library Resources

Print

Fabric, Paper, Thread by Kristin Sutcliffe [YANF 745.54 SUT]

Water Paper Paint by Heather Smith Jones [ANF 751.422 SMI]

Lena Corwin's Made by Hand by Lena Corwin [ANF 746.6 COR]

Modern Quilts, Traditional Inspiration by Denyse Schmidt [ANF746.46 SCH]

Art Quilt Portfolio by Martha Sielman [ANF 746.46 SIE]

Christo & Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan [ANF 709.22 GRE]

E-Learning on our website's Student Portal

(7-8, 9-12) eLibrary Curriculum Edition (Proquest) –

Jailer-Chamberlain, Mildred. "MAN MADE: Piecing out a New Tradition in Quilting." *Antiques & Collecting Magazine*. 01 Oct. 2004: 44. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

Kenny, Amy. "Falling for fabric ; Fibre artist is drawn to the power of colour." *Waterloo Region Record*. 10 Oct. 2015: E3. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

Rose, Julian. "Do Ho Suh." *Artforum International*. 01 Feb. 2015: 239. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

Vogel, Carol. "Epic Visions, Still Under Construction." *New York Times*. 25 Oct. 2015: AR1. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

"Ringgold, Faith (biography)." *Her Heritage: A Biographical Encyclopedia of Famous American Women*. 1.00 ed. 1995. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

Schwendener, Martha. "Alabama Quilts, the New Chapter." *New York Times*. 20 Feb. 2015: C22. eLibrary. Web. 02 Dec. 2015.

(7-8, 9-12) Issues & Controversies –

"7,500 Gates March Through New York's Central Park (Special Report)." *Issues & Controversies*. Infobase Learning, Feb. 2005. Web. 2 Dec. 2015.

(7-8, 9-12) World Book Advanced –

Cech, John. "Ringgold, Faith." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 2 Dec. 2015.

Corwin, Nancy A. "Tapestry." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 2 Dec. 2015.