

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students meet artist Christina Bothwell from Craft in America's STORYTELLERS episode. Bothwell creates figurative sculptures made of opaque, unglazed clay and translucent cast and painted glass. The translucent glass adds to the dreamlike quality of the sculptures. As she states, *"I am a storyteller and I love stories. If something really touches me I have to process it and get it out by doing a piece."* She tells stories through her sculptures. The lesson focuses on storytelling as a basis for art making. Through investigations, students consider the stories suggested in the artist's works and then think about developing characters for their own sculptural artworks. In studio work, students use clay to create characters that engage a viewer's interest and suggest a story.

Key Concepts

- A sculpture can convey mood and suggest a story.
- Sculptures can suggest something that is real or true-to-life, fiction, or a combination of both.
- Body position and gesture in a sculpture can create interest and suggest a story.

Critical Questions

- How can a sculpture convey mood and suggest a story?
- How can sculptures suggest something that is real or true-to-life, fiction, or a combination of both?
- How can you include body position and gesture in a sculpture to suggest a story?

Objectives

Students will:

- interpret mood and narrative suggested by sculpture.
- make a sculpture that is realistic, fictional, or a combination of both.
- sculpt a figure in which body position and gestures create interest and suggest a story.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

- Visual Arts/Creating #VA:Cr3.1.Ia Process Component: Reflect Refine Continue
Anchor Standard: Refine and complete artistic work.



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- Visual Arts/Presenting #VA:Pr5.1.8a Process Component: Analyze Anchor Standard: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Visual Arts/Responding #VA:Re8.1.1a Process Component: Analyze Anchor Standard: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Visual Arts/Connecting #VA:Cn10.1.1a Process Component: Synthesize Anchor Standard: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Assessment

In discussions with the class and with individual students throughout the lesson; through students' writings and responses; and/or by reviewing the students' studio work, it should be evident that the student:

- Interpreted mood and narrative suggested by sculpture.
- Defined their sculpture as realistic, fictional, or a combination of both.
- Sculpted a figure in which body position and gestures create interest and suggest a story.

Interdisciplinary Connection

- Language Arts: The storytelling theme of the lesson includes practicing story writing, discerning between fiction and non-fiction, and developing characters.

Extensions

After students finish their characters in clay, you might have the class investigate sculptor Cristina Cordóva and photographer Cara Romero in the Craft in America IDENTITY episode. Both artists make use of characters or figures, and deal with positioning the body, capturing expression, and indicating a sense of story.