Unit 2: Photography and Series

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **8 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

In this unit, students will investigate how photographers communicate ideas through a series of images rather than a single artwork. Through research of photographers who work in series, students will analyze how sequencing, consistency, symbolism, composition, and subject matter contribute to visual storytelling and conceptual development. Students will develop and produce a cohesive 10-15 image photographic series centered around a personally meaningful theme or concept (Can expand from the previous unit or explore a new theme). Final works will be matted, framed, and accompanied by an artist statement to then be professionally presented to classmates during a class critique and presentation.

Revised: August 2026

Standards

Information Literacy

This unit challenges students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy. Lessons may include the research process and how information is created and produced; critical thinking and using information resources; research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources; the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions, accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources; the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of information.

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.5.12acc.Cr1	Generating and conceptualizing ideas. Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed. Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art-making goals. Explore
1.5.12acc.Cr1a	Individually and collaboratively formulate new creative problems based on student's

	existing artwork.
1.5.12acc.Cr2	Organizing and developing ideas.
	Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches. Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility, while developing and creating artworks. People create and interact with objects, places and design that define, shape, enhance, and empower their lives.
1.5.12acc.Cr2a	Through experimentation, practice and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge in a chosen art form.
1.5.12acc.Cr2b	Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of making and distributing creative work.
1.5.12acc.Cr3	Refining and completing products.
	Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising and refining work over time.
1.5.12acc.Cr3a	Engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, re-engage, revise, and refine works of art and design in response to personal artistic vision.
1.5.12acc.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing, and interpreting work.
	Artists and other presenters consider various techniques, methods, venues, and criteria when analyzing, selecting and curating objects, artifacts and artworks for preservation and presentation.
1.5.12acc.Pr5	Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.
	Artists, curators and others consider a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for display and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect it.
1.5.12acc.Pr6	Conveying meaning through art.
	Objects, artifacts and artworks collected, preserved, or presented either by artists, museums, or other venues communicate meaning and a record of social, cultural and political experiences resulting in the cultivating of appreciation and understanding.
1.5.12acc.Re7	Perceiving and analyzing products.
	Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments. Visual arts influences understanding of and responses to the world.
1.5.12acc.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
	People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
1.5.12acc.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
	People evaluate art based on various criteria.
1.5.12acc.Re9a	Determine the relevance of criteria used by others to evaluate a work of art or collection of works.
1.5.12acc.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
	Through artmaking, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge and experiences.
1.5.12acc.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
	Relate
1.5.12acc.Cn11a	Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary and local contexts.

Essential Questions

- How can a series of photographs communicate ideas differently than a single image?
- What makes a photographic series cohesive and visually successful?
- How do photographers use sequencing, repetition, and visual consistency to develop meaning?
- How can artists communicate personal experiences, themes, or narratives through photography?

Essential Understandings

- A series of artworks can communicate complex ideas, narratives, and emotions through visual connections and sequencing.
- Artists make intentional decisions about composition, subject matter, editing, and presentation to unify a body of work.
- Researching contemporary and historical photographers helps artists develop ideas, techniques, and artistic voice.
- Reflection, critique, revision, and presentation strengthen artistic growth and communication.

Students Will Know

- Characteristics and components of a successful photographic series including theme, consistency, sequencing, and visual unity.
- How photographers use symbolism, composition, lighting, and perspective to support conceptual ideas.
- Methods for researching and analyzing photographers who work in series.
- Proper techniques for matting, framing, and professionally presenting photographic artwork.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Fine Arts students demonstrate differentiated proficiency according to their ability to answer the essential questions through formative and summative assessments. Evidence of progression may be demonstrated in divergent ways through the Artistic Process of Creating, Presenting/Producing, Connecting, and Responding.

Tasks will include:

- Preview/Answer essential questions
- Meaningfully and appropriately participate in class critique and discussions
- Complete class projects including weekly critique assignments
- Complete self-assessment rubrics
- Participate in assessment discussions with teacher
- Complete final exam

Learning Plan

- Essential Question Introduction & Journal Reflection:
  Preview and discuss unit essential questions through class discussions and sketchbook journal prompts exploring how photographers communicate meaning through a series of images rather than a single photograph.

- Introduction to Photographic Series:
  Introduce the concept of photographic series through mini lectures, presentations, and visual examples examining sequencing, repetition, visual consistency, narrative, symbolism, and conceptual development.

- Artist Research & Visual Analysis:
  Research and analyze photographers known for working in series, including Cindy Sherman (identity and staged photography), Duane Michals (narrative photographic sequences), Bernd and Hilla Becher (typologies and repetition), Nan Goldin (personal narrative series), and Alec Soth (documentary storytelling and portraiture).

- Class Discussion & Brainstorming Activity:
  Participate in discussions analyzing how photographers create connections between images through composition, subject matter, editing, mood, and sequencing. Brainstorm possible personal themes, concepts, stories, or social issues for individual photographic series.

- Theme Development & Planning:
  Develop a personal concept for a photographic series through mind maps, thumbnail sketches, written reflections, mood boards, and image research. Identify visual motifs, symbolism, locations, subjects, and intended messages.

- Storyboarding & Visual Mapping of Series:

Create a loose storyboard of the planned photographic series to explore how images might be ordered and how meaning shifts through sequence. Students experiment with different viewpoints, compositions, pacing, and transitions between images. Emphasis is placed on visual flow, repetition, contrast, and narrative structure rather than final image selection. Peer feedback supports refinement of sequencing ideas and conceptual

clarity.

- Photography Skill Building & Experimentation:
  Practice photographic techniques including lighting, composition, framing, perspective, portraiture, movement, and editing to strengthen consistency and visual storytelling within a series. Introduce digital workflow and post-processing techniques (e.g., batch editing, color grading, cropping for consistency) using standard photo editing software to ensure visual unity across the entire body of work.

- Photography Collection & Image Gathering:
  Conduct independent photo shoots capturing images connected to the chosen theme or concept. Experiment with angles, lighting, location, sequencing, and visual relationships between photographs.

- Sequencing & Cohesion Workshop:
  Analyze and arrange photographs to explore pacing, narrative flow, visual rhythm, repetition, and conceptual unity within a photographic series. Participate in peer feedback sessions to evaluate cohesion and clarity.

- Process Documentation & Reflection:
  Document artistic development, revisions, experimentation, and conceptual growth through sketchbook notes, process reflections, planning sheets, and critique feedback.

- Final Series Production & Presentation Preparation:
  Finalize and edit a cohesive 10-15 image photographic series demonstrating technical skill, visual consistency, and conceptual communication. Prepare photographs for presentation through matting, framing, mounting, or digital display. Draft and refine a formal Artist Statement that explains the conceptual theme, artistic intent, and specific sequencing choices made for the series.

- Gallery Walk, Presentation & Critique:
  Participate in gallery walks, formal critiques, peer discussions, and artist statements analyzing how sequencing and visual relationships strengthen communication within a photographic series.

Materials

The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, supplemental, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

Digital Cameras, Sketchbook, Various Pencils, Sharpies, Markers, Various Papers, Various Erasers, Mirrors, Blending Sticks, Charcoal, Graphite, Sharpeners, Colored Pencils, Oil Pastel, Chalk Pastels, YouTube Videos, Value Scales, magazines, glue, scissors, Watercolor, Watercolor paper, paint brush, ink, printing materials, chromebooks, ipads, Paint, Color Wheels, Drawing Pen, Rulers

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

Suggested Strategies for Modifications:

This link includes content specific accommodations and modifications for all populations:

Fine Arts Accommodations & Modifications

- handouts of notes, procedures, processes, diagrams, etc.