Unit 5: Review Developing Artist Voice

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

Brief Summary of Unit

This unit focuses on helping students refine and deepen their unique photographic style, or "artistic voice," through advanced experimentation, reflection, and intentional image-making. Students will revisit prior photographic themes, techniques, and processes to evaluate their strengths, preferences, and emerging visual identity. Emphasis will be placed on making deliberate artistic choices in subject matter, composition, editing, sequencing, and presentation to strengthen conceptual clarity and personal expression. Students will develop a more cohesive and intentional body of work that demonstrates growth, independence, and a clearly defined photographic voice.

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

1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.Cr1a	Visualize and generate art and design that can affect social change.
1.5.12adv.Cr1b	Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic

	practices, following or breaking established conventions, to plan the making of multiple works of art and design based on a theme, idea or concept.
1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.Cr2a	Experiment, plan and make multiple works of art and design that explore a personally meaningful theme, idea, or concept.
1.5.12adv.Cr2b	Demonstrate understanding of the importance of balancing freedom and responsibility in the use of images, materials, tools and equipment in the creation and circulation of creative work.
1.5.12adv.Cr2c	Demonstrate in works of art or design how visual and material culture defines, shapes, enhances, inhibits, and/or empowers people's lives.
1.5.12adv.Cr3	Refining and completing products.
	Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising and refining work over time.
1.5.12adv.Cr3a	Reflect on, re-engage, revise and refine works of art or design considering relevant traditional and contemporary criteria as well as personal artistic vision.
1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.Pr5a	Investigate, compare and contrast methods for preserving and protecting art.
1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.Pr6a	Curate a collection of objects, artifacts or artwork to impact the viewer's understanding of social, cultural and/or political experiences.
1.5.12adv.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.
1.5.12adv.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
1.5.12adv.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
	People evaluate art based on various criteria.
1.5.12adv.Cn	Connecting
1.5.12adv.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
1.5.12adv.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.

	People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.
1.5.12adv.Cn11a	Assess the impact of an artist or a group of artists on the beliefs, values and behaviors of a society.

Essential Questions

- What defines an artistic voice in photography?
- How do personal experiences, interests, and perspectives shape photographic style?
- How can revisiting and revising past work strengthen artistic growth?
- How do technique, subject matter, and intent work together to communicate meaning?

Essential Understandings

- Artistic voice develops over time through reflection, experimentation, and intentional decision-making.
- Photographers strengthen their work by revising, refining, and rethinking previous ideas and images.
- Personal perspective and lived experience are essential to creating meaningful photographic work.
- Cohesion, consistency, and purpose are key elements of a strong photographic identity.
- Artists have a responsibility to consider how the creation and circulation of their images impact subjects, audiences, and cultural narratives.

Students Will Know

- The characteristics of a developing artistic voice, including style, subject focus, composition choices, and editing approaches.
- How to critically evaluate their own work and identify strengths, patterns, and areas for growth.
- How artists refine ideas through revision, sequencing, and reworking images or series.
- How intentional choices in technique and presentation strengthen conceptual meaning.

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
- Complete a Final Portfolio Defense and Artist Talk: Creation and submission of a digital/physical contact sheet to demonstrate the editing and selection process.

Learning Plan

- Essential Question Introduction & Reflective Journal Entry:
  Engage in discussions and written reflections exploring what defines an artistic voice and how personal experiences influence photographic style and decision-making.

- Portfolio Review & Self-Assessment:
  Review previous photographic work from earlier units to identify recurring themes, strengths, preferences, and areas for improvement. Complete structured self-assessments and goal-setting exercises.

- Artist Research & Style Analysis:
  Research photographers with strong, recognizable artistic voices, including Cindy Sherman (constructed identity), Andreas Gursky (large-scale conceptual photography), Nan Goldin (intimate documentary storytelling), Alex Webb (complex color and composition), and Sally Mann (personal and expressive imagery).

- Style Experimentation & Technical Exploration:
  Experiment with revisiting earlier techniques and themes while intentionally altering composition, lighting, subject matter, editing style, and perspective to discover personal preferences and emerging artistic direction.

- Revision & Reworking Previous Images:
  Select prior photographs to re-edit, reshoot, or reinterpret using new skills and conceptual understanding. Focus on improving clarity, cohesion, and expressive intent.

- Theme Development & Artistic Direction Planning:
  Identify key visual and conceptual directions for a developing artistic voice. Create mood boards,

visual references, and written artist statements outlining personal focus and intent.

- Digital Asset Management: Students will practice professional digital workflows by organizing image catalogs, utilizing metadata, and creating digital contact sheets to document their selection process.

- Cohesive Mini-Series Development:
  Create a short series of images (5–10 photographs) that intentionally reflect a consistent artistic voice through repetition of style, subject matter, and visual decision-making.

- Critique, Feedback & Refinement:
  Participate in structured critiques to evaluate clarity of artistic voice, consistency, and conceptual strength. Use feedback to revise and refine work.

- Process Documentation & Reflection:
  Maintain ongoing documentation of artistic decisions, revisions, experimentation, and personal growth through sketchbooks, annotations, and reflective writing.

- Final Portfolio Presentation:
  Curate and present a refined body of photographic work that demonstrates a clear, intentional, and evolving artistic voice. Emphasize cohesion, personal expression, and technical growth.

- Gallery Walk, Artist Statement & Reflection:
  Present final work in a gallery-style critique, accompanied by an artist statement explaining influences, development of style, and how artistic voice is communicated through photography.

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.

Handouts, writing samples, 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