

“Shadow Art”



Objective: Students will create a positive space image to produce shadow art.

Materials

- A light source (old slide projectors work great)
- A box of junk
- tape, scissors and other tools to help connect the junk
- A camera to capture the final shadow image

Motivation

- To start the lesson, introduce the students to various shadow artists.
- Start with the work Tim Noble, Sue Webster, Kumi Yamashita and street artist Ellis Gallagher.
- Share images and engage in discussions about shadow art.

Step 1: Set Up

Explain to your students that they will be working in teams, manipulating junk to create shadow art on the wall. Leave everything else: what they want to create, the theme of their art, even where they will project the light, up to them.

Step 2: The Junk

You will need to formulate a plan for distributing the junk. If you have many items, you might be able to provide a box of junk for each team. If not, you might have all the junk on one table and have the students take turns choosing items from a centralized pile.

Step 3: Taking Photos

The interesting thing about this type of project is there is no actual project. It is solely up to the photographer to capture the moment of the objects being cast onto the wall in shadow form. The photograph will be the only record.

While students are working, it is important to keep them up to speed on the amount of time left in class so they don't finish too early or not finish on time.

At the end of class, the projectors will be put away, the piles of trash disassembled, and the box refilled with junk.

Tip: This project is a great way to get in a team collaboration activity in your art room.