

Themes for exploration:

You DO NOT have to work in a theme but all of your work must have ideas that back it up. Use these themes as a jumping off point to develop one or a series of artworks.

- **social class** – what does it mean? use the art process to create a series of artworks or one final artwork expressing personal views, thoughts and perspectives on this theme
- beliefs, values and cultural upbringing – what have been the major influences on our lives to date?
- **a throwaway society** – contemporary living is creating an unsustainable culture; society today just wants to discard and replace; collect a range of unwanted objects and explore the possibilities of recycling into art
- **travel** – experiencing the world in which we live leaves life long memories; students select one of your journeys as an inspiration to make art
- man-made meets the natural environment – create an artwork that uses both organic and manufactured materials
- research an issue that is newsworthy and focuses on one of the following themes: social, cultural, political, and environmental; issues can be past or current.

Identity Sounds -

from Nature, Music, Songs Words - Poetry,

Literature, Quotes, Phrase Vignettes of nature - observation

Observation - Realism Imagination - dreams - fantasy Expression - emotions Beliefs and values -

Cultural traditions Events - tragedy - war - life experiences Symbolism - Culture - Environment Layering Nature - Landscape - What is beautiful

Nature -

Conflict - Storms - Sun - Stars

Nature - Man and animals - animals

Environment - Interiors

Seascape - Marine life Time - passage of time - cycles of life Concealment
Internationalism Cityscape - city life

Family - mother and child - family love

Religion - Spirituality - beliefs and values

Still life - observation - realism Still life - abstraction

Slice of life - people at work - or play Collections Fantasy - imagination - inner worlds

Mythology - Folk tales Figure - portrait-personality

Historical subjects - War - Peace

Narrative - tells a story

Abstraction - Non-objective Identity (a different kind of portrait)

Power and authority

Social Concerns - Issues

Metamorphosis – life cycles, change, alteration, transfiguration, mutation

Music – sound, making tone visible, music culture, what do music and art have in common?

Dance – movement, rhythm, repetition, physicality, meaning in gesture

Legend/mythology – ancient, primitive, modern, stories, archetypes, moral lessons, religion, ritual, social obligations

Nature vs. Science – current issues (bioethics) technology, how do we understand the world? Our place in the universe, limits of scientific knowledge, art and science,

Cubism, Futurism

Myself - memories, esteem, place in the world, pride, shame, family, heritage, ethnicity, self-portrait, friends, loves, enemies.

Gender – male & female, role in society, in family, in evolution.
Advantages/disadvantages of being one or the other.

Stereotypes, cultural roles, sexuality, gender in politics, gender reversal. Going beyond stereotypes

Scale – close-up/magnified, objects blown out of proportion, large vs. minuscule, other worlds of scale, space, positive/ negative, color and texture.

Other worlds – underwater, space, extraterrestrial, microscopic, imagination, computer/virtual world.

Animals – other life, instinctual, life cycles of, physical/spiritual power in, ecology, animals as symbols, cultural associations with animals.

Art and the senses – ways of knowing, art that smells, tastes, feels, etc. Art that appeals to alternative senses.

Cryptography – art as code, codes in life, symbols, signs, text, sense in nonsense, order, mathematics, key to understanding.

God/religion – creation, destruction, judgment, what is holy? Role of religion in society, metaphysics, personal sense of god, mercy, forgiveness, justification, sin, sacrifice.

Kitsch – what is kitsch? What is beautiful? What is not? Value, mass production, pop culture, your own personal sense of kitsch, aspects of society as revealed in its kitsch.

Graphics – use of line, color and composition to create a graphic identity, advertising, mass media, manipulation of imagery, the (blurred) line between what reality and the graphic representation.

Human anatomy – body, muscle, bone, skin, weight distribution, issues of beauty and human body, use/abuse of the body, skin (color?), aging, disease.

Dreams – meaning, analysis, associations, truth in, the bizarre, wish-fulfillment, imagery, Surrealism, the subconscious, Sigmund Freud.

Chance – allowing chance to dictate art, automatic drawing, the Exquisite Corpse, Surrealism, Dadaism, kinetic art, image association.

Emotion – human feelings, expression, knowledge through emotion, emotional situations, culture and emotions, controlled/uncontrolled emotions, conveying emotion, color, line and shape and emotions, Expressionism, Fauvism, Abstraction.

Collection/series – repetition, repeated objects, objects in a series, objects that share something in common, distant vs. close relationships between objects, association.

Beauty/ugliness – what defines these? What constitutes the appealing or the repulsive?

Manipulating materials so that they take on appealing/repulsive qualities.

Architectural renderings- showing (exploring) the interior and exterior space with a strong focus on light, perspective and structure

Exploration- using realistic and non-objective animals (stipple technique....a series of black and white ink drawings moving into color)

Portraits and the human form Junk yard still life- waste-reuse

Tomatoes, from seed to fruit

Fantasy characters – gargoyles, fairies, dragons, etc. – convincingly rendered Circus life

My ancestry

Crime and punishment

Women in feminine roles- not in feminine roles

Men in masculine roles-not in masculine roles “Seven deadly sins”

Historical events Reflections of images wherein the reflections are an emotional exploration (of literal reflections)

Instruments that make music Icons w/in our society

Strength of women (Cindy Sherman, Barbara Krueger)

Dreams and dream images (Chagall, Dali)

Dance -movement (Degas)

Struggle to find one's self (identity)

Figure studies in strong lights/darks

Car interiors, mechanic, technology

Abstract portraits Illustrate a classical character or story in a new or modern way

Childhood memories and feelings

Evolution of an item as it deteriorates or decomposes

Portrait/figure distortions in color/shapes Personal or social issues

Cultural diversity – social issues (diego rivera)

Visual puns/hybrids (Magritte)

Self (you, your identity, self image, self-esteem) or dark self (see C.G. Jung) Family or ethnic group (not necessarily yours)

Science & Technology

Dreams/the surreal world,/alternate reality/questioning reality

Society/Public vs. Private Capitalism/ (Free)Trade/Economic equality/Globalism
Epistemology (ie. how we know what we know)/TOK

Conflict/resolution/war/peace Art/History/Art History/Interpretation

Origins/Beginnings/Endings/divisions in time Age/Adolescence/Biological growth/evolution

Location-place, sense of place

Symbols/Systems of Meaning/Codes Taste/Fashion

Story/Narrative Humor/dark humor/ Shock/Horror/Ugliness Action

Historical Moments Celebration

Ant's Eye View

Silhouettes

Kaleidoscope

Clouds

Strange

Reflections

Roots (real, metaphorical)

Inspired by Music

Rhythmic Lines

Greek Mythology

Quilted Images

Folklore

Giant Objects

Hybrids

Nightmares

Illustrated Story Maps

Metaphoric Drawings

Ravages of War

Explosions

Events from Childhood

Macro Drawings

Escher Tiling

Aerial View Incongruous

Lonely & Lost Trains Paradox

Trees like People

Muscles

Ordinary

Beauty

Large things made of small things

People on the beach

Combining Opposites

Mother & Child

Friendship