

Teacher Resource Package

Image and the Curious Mind

Robin Smith-Peck

March 20 – April 26, 2015 / Grades K – 9



Tracking the Distance Home (Edition 10), 2014, Archival Ink, Digital Ground

Exhibition

Originally born in Newfoundland, and now residing in Sherwood Park, Robin Smith-Peck has exhibited her artwork across Canada and internationally. The subject matter in her digital prints is inspired by her interest in printmaking as a tool of communication, and they are informed by her knowledge of the history of printmaking.

“Visual art is about looking and being looked at. I believe that within the act of looking, unique insights into what it means to be human are communicated – insights that are unavailable in another language.”

“The languages I employ are based within the process of the collage. This means that I bring together pieces of the visual information that, when seen juxtaposed or in concert with one another, represent the insights I am seeking.” – Robin Smith-Peck, 2002

In a 2010 essay about printmaking, Smith-Peck discusses the uniqueness of printmaking in that it is a medium that is inherently reproducible. She also contemplates how a print is different from other mediums because when an artist creates a painting or a drawing the lines they put down on the paper result in the actual artwork. This contrasts printmaking where the lines created on the printing block are a mere suggestion of the final work of art.

Smith-Peck contemplates these ideas as she creates her digital prints, which layer image and color and are eventually transferred to paper.

Classroom Connections

The Big Picture:

By interacting with Robin Smith-Peck's artwork, students will:

- gain an understanding of process of printmaking
- make a connection between art and communication
- use artwork to explore ...

Interacting with Art:

Using an object based learning approach can help students to gain a better understanding of an artwork through close looking and inquiry. This approach can be used with any artwork or object in the classroom.

General Art Inquiry Questions	Robin Smith-Peck Specific Questions
Starting out:	
What do you see? (What color is it? How big is it? What shapes do you see?) Who made it? When was it made? Do you like the artwork? Why or why not? Does it remind you of anything?	Do you think that the colors the artist has chosen contribute to the visual message of the artwork? How can the title of the work help the viewer to understand the artwork?
Dig a little deeper:	
How was the artwork created? What materials were used? How do you know? What does the artwork tell us about when or where it was made?	Can you tell that the prints were created digitally (on a computer)? Why do you think the artist chose to create the prints on a computer instead of using traditional printmaking methods?
Wrap it up:	
How can we make sense of this artwork? How can we relate the artwork to our own lives? Has talking about the artwork changed how you feel about it?	What kinds of ideas or themes do you see in Robin's artwork? How can we as the viewer's learn more about the artist's intentions and process?

Resources

MoMA: What is a Print? Interactive Site:

<http://www.moma.org/interactives/projects/2001/whatisaprint/flash.html>

Metropolitan Museum of Art Thematic Essays: Printmaking:

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/prnt/hd_prnt.htm

“Printmaking in the 21st Century” Victoria and Alberta Museum:

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/prints-21st-century/>

Robin Smith-Peck:

<http://robinsmithpeck.com/home.html>



Robin Smith-Peck, *Travelling Wave 1*, 2013, Gesso, Digital Ground, Epson Ink on Arches

Pre and Post Tour Activities

Visual Arts

Grades K-9: How can we use layers to give an artwork interest and meaning? Have your students brainstorm themes that are important to them as a group. Then, give the students a variety of mediums to create a multi-layered artwork. Provide materials such as paint, pencils, pencil crayons, different types of papers, etc. for the students to explore. How do different mediums interact with each other? How does the medium help to convey the message? How can we use layers of color, line, shape, etc. to tell a narrative within a single image?

Language Arts

Grades K-6: How is art a language? How can we tell a story using art? Have your students look at a piece of artwork. Then have them make up a story (verbally or written) of what could be happening in the artwork. Discuss as a class how they came up with their stories. How did they use the image to come up with characters and narratives? How did the colors, objects, settings in the artwork contribute to their story?

Grades 7-9: Art is a form of visual communication. Have your students research an artist that interests them. Then, have the student choose one artwork to analyze. Ask the students questions such as what kind of message or idea is the artist trying to convey? How do the elements of the artwork contribute to that idea? Is the message in the artwork easily understood by the viewer? Why or why not?