



Art As Experience

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Summary

1. Big Idea and/or Question(s): **How is art experienced? What is experience? How do we choose what to focus on? How do people choose what to draw or make art about? How do we (and others) experience art and the world around us?**
2. Medium(s): **Imagination, Focus, Narrative, Analysis, Pen, Paper, and any other mediums that you may have access to and feel like exploring / using.**
3. Grade Levels: **6th – 8th Grade**
4. Time Breakdown: **Approx. 45 min lesson: 10 min video, 10 min discussion, 20 min activity, 5 min wrap**

Materials

1. Imagination
2. Focus
3. Pen & Paper
4. Any other mediums that you may have access to and/or feel like using. (paints, charcoals, clay, photography, video, dance, song, spoken-word, etc.) <https://www.blick.com>

Video

Introduction: Hey hey my name is Eric Piper, and I'm an artist and organizer based in Norman, OK. For 10 years I've been active creating, organizing, and exhibiting experimental art and happenings. Through international networks, artists and audiences worldwide can connect, collaborate, and learn from each other and our different experiences.

Present a Big Idea and/or ask an Essential Question:

So!
Today!
Right now!
I want to talk about 'Art as Experience.'

Which leads to....
What is experience?

Webster says,
"The act of perceiving, participating,
and translating events or reality"



Because there is too much existing & happening around us to comprehend, much of our unique experience is what we "choose" to focus on. And then how will we translate those sights, smells, sounds and symbols into some kind of meaning?

As an artist we should be aware all art will be experienced differently by different people, best to start paying attention to how you experience art and life and talk with others about their experiences as well.

So...

How do we choose what to focus on?

Take a moment, look around the room and move your focus from one object to another, try to find something you haven't focused on in the room. What is it? Where did it come from?

How do people choose to draw or make art about?
What would you want to draw, sculpt... sing or dance about in your surroundings?

How do we and others view art?
Is there artwork in the room you're in now? What do you think about it? What's going on in the work?

How do we (and others) experience art and the world around us?

Show an Artwork that Relates to the Idea/Question:

Here are some examples from a print portfolio I've brought along. Let's look at what these artists have chosen as subject matter, what do you see as we go through the images, there are stories waiting to be seen in all of these. [Example artwork]

Assign an Activity to Investigate the Idea/Question:

For your assignment, I have four steps to creatively explore a concept or subject and create artwork to share that experience with others.

First, we are going to spend a few minutes changing our focus, zoom in and zoom out of different objects and spaces in the room around you? Write down or doodle any thoughts or memories that come to mind from your experience of the world around you.

Second, we are going to choose a specific object or area to move to (or move the object to set up a still life) and explore our experience of it through drawing or writing.

Third, we are going to change our position, or the position of the object and do it again.

Finally we are going to ask another person what they see in our work?

Allow yourself to be the audience.

Look openly at how you are experiencing the environment and objects around you.



I suggest using a timer for these steps.

Set the timer for 5 minutes.

At the top of the paper write **sight, sound, smell, taste, touch, body, movement, and time.**

First, we are going to spend a few minutes changing our focus, zoom in and zoom out of different objects and spaces in the room around you? Write down or doodle any thoughts or memories that come to mind from your experience of the world around you.

Find inspiration from the room and objects around you.

Write down memories, feelings, or imagine what the room or objects could be thinking if they were alive.

Pause the video and start the first 5 minutes now #####

Second, We are going to choose a specific object or area to move to (or move the object to set up a still life) and explore our experience of it through drawing or writing.

Keep drawing or writing the whole 5 minutes, your pencil, markers, paint, clay whatever should be moving the whole time, even if there ends up being a bit of gibberish, if you don't have any ideas, go back to the words at the top of the page for inspiration....

Pause the video and start the second 5 minutes now #####

Third We are going to change our position, (or the position of the object) and do it again. 3 times even if you're up to it, you'll be surprised how much experience is hiding in the strangest of places.

Pause the video and start the third 5 minute timer now #####

Now the last part of the exercise will be to share the work with someone else.



Remember, their experience of your art will be unique.

Ask them what they see in your art, ask them how they feel about the space or objects you were looking at.

Wrap-Up: Humans are wild and imaginative animals, one of the most beautiful parts of experiences is learning and growing through talking and sharing about our different experiences of reality.



Above: Eric Piper, *Universe Map / Dart Board*, linocut, 17" x 21", 2020.

Image, Page 2: Eric Piper, *Domestic Animals vs. Feral Environment*, woodcut relief print

Image, Page 3: Eric Piper, *Connect the Dots*, woodcut relief print

Image, Page 4: Eric Piper, *Doot Doot*, screenprint