

GILLIAN WEARING HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY LESSON

ASK THE QUESTION AND LET THE ANSWER SURPRISE YOU
SOCIAL STUDIES & ART
GRADES: 9-12

BASED ON



Gillian Wearing, England
Confess All On Video. Don't Worry, You'll Be In Disguise. Intrigued? Call Gillian... (detail), 1994, color video with sound, 30 minutes. Copyright Gillian Wearing, courtesy of the artist, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, Maureen Paley, London and Regen Projects, Los Angeles

OBJECTIVES

- Students will explore the art practice of Gillian Wearing.
- Students will learn how to create a series of artwork.
- Students will examine how to document and make art using their cell phone.

CONCEPT

Gillian Wearing's lens based practice asks a question and lets the public decide how to answer. Her use of masks allows people to express their thoughts and feelings with ease. Wearing documents and challenges what we think we already know. Students will ask their own questions tied into identity and community. Students will create their own series of images based off their questions using their cell phones.

MATERIALS

Cell phone
Writing surface
Cardboard
Notebook, whiteboard, paper, ect.
Pen, marker, ect.

VOCABULARY

Artist Practice- Term referring to the way an artist goes about their work
Documentary Photography- A style of photography that provides a straightforward and accurate representation of people, places, objects and events, and is often used in reportage

PROCEDURE

1. Students will explore the art practice of Gillian Wearing: *Looking at Signs that Say What You Want Them To Say and Not Signs that Say What Someone Else Wants You To Say*, as well as her work using masks. Discuss with students the different titles Wearing uses in her work to help students understand her artistic practice.
2. Students will brainstorm questions to ask based on identity and community. Once students select their question, with teacher approval, students will need to:
 - a. Pick the type of sign and writing utensil that best represents their question.
 - b. Decide If they want to use a mask. If so, encourage students to think about what type of mask would best represent their question.
3. Students will ask family or friends to answer the question on their chosen surface with their chosen writing utensil, with the knowledge that they will be photographed with the sign. Images will become a part of that students photo series.
4. Using their cell phone, students will take a photo of the person holding the written sign. Student need to take all photos either vertically or horizontally. Encourage students to have a consistent background for their images. This will create a stronger series.
5. Students will repeat the process two more times with different people.
6. Students will print out images and mount them to make a series of three. The question will become the title for the series of work.

ASSESSMENT

Hold a Critique and have students write a reflection on the process.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Content Standard 5:
Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
Achievement Standard
Proficient:
Students identify intentions of those creating artworks, explore the implications of various purposes, and justify their analyses of purposes in particular works

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Science: Have students design their question based on science.

English: Have students design their question based on a character or plot in a book they are studying.

History: Have students base their question on history they are studying.

RESOURCES

<https://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/wearing>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/gillian-wearing-obe-2648>



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EXAMPLES OF STUDENT WORK

