



Visual Arts Virtual Learning

High School

Drawing II

**Unit: Current Issues- Mixed
Media**

Lesson:

Unusual drawing surfaces

May 18, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

Students will choose from a range of materials and methods of contemporary artistic practices to plan works of art and design.

Students will collect found surfaces to challenge their drawing techniques and creativity.

Students will create artwork on new found materials around their homes about contemporary social or controversial issues.



Let's get started:

Artists in quarantine have been exploring different media, inspirations, methods and techniques.

In your home you will be collecting materials that you can draw on that differ from your typical drawing paper.

Some artist have drawn on eggs, newspapers, envelopes, pizza boxes, toilet paper and the rolls, scrap wood, and paper/ styrofoam cups.

Walk around your home, collect and consider potential surfaces that can use some artistic flair.

Keep your collection for this week. Today you will need to either read, watch, or research, and reflect. Get a pencil and a paper to brainstorm.

Activity Lesson:

You will do some reflection and/or research into current/contemporary social issues. Read a few articles, watch news channels, explore different perspectives and data about events that are happening now, recently occurred or what will be happening soon. For example,

 **Bonnie Castillo**
@NNUBonnie

Right now, @NationalNurses RNs are leaving empty pairs of shoes in front of the White House to represent each nurse who has died from #COVID19 in an incredibly moving and powerful protest this morning during #NursesWeek.



Nurses in California are having difficulties with workers' compensation. This puts them in a risky situation, being at work with COVID running rapidly, and on top of it not being covered if they were to get infected. So currently they are protesting, in order to pass a bill that would cover public safety employees. With that quick summary, what could you create to represent what is occurring? Nurses had done a visual/ almost performance protest representing nurses live being impacted negatively.

(From National Nurses United) California is one of many states that have laws that grant some public safety employees, such as police officers and firefighters, "presumptive eligibility" for workers' compensation. However, nurses have no such protections at all, even though, by the nature of their work, they suffer some of the highest risks of injury and illness of any profession. This bill would correct this unfair treatment.

"Presumptive eligibility" for workers' compensation, means that if the employee sustains certain injuries or becomes infected with certain diseases like COVID-19, the injury or illness is presumed to be job related and makes him or her automatically eligible for workers' compensation benefits.



Activity Lesson:

Today, research, explore and reflect on the world around you. Seek out what you find is important to you and the society in which you live in. You can find a stance on something that is happening, establish whether it is positively or negatively impacting our society. Once you find a few things sketch out what comes to mind. Or simply take notes.

For the examples, it will be artists around the world reflecting their lives with Coronavirus. This is just an example that we all are experiencing. You can explore other contemporary/ current events as well.

Activity Lesson:

Examples:

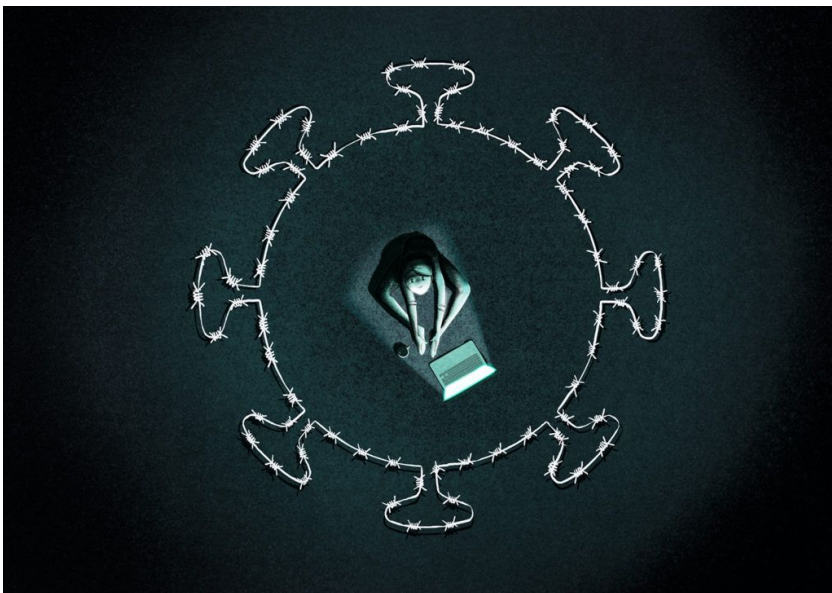
Hijack Art, Los Angeles



This LA-based graffitist was exposed to the street art world from a young age by his father who collaborated with Banksy. “In times like these, creativity can help us deal with and overcome a crisis. The piece itself is more of an observation of our current mental state. We seem to be waging a war against an unseen enemy, sending some of us into a panic and I wanted to convey this in typical Hijack fashion.”

JEN RENNINGER

Tampa, Florida



There is so much anxiety centered around the uncertainty of the pandemic. With that in mind, our family decided to focus on the good things that are happening in the face of this chaos: helping neighbors prepare, especially our elderly friends who live alone. Neighbors helping neighbors — all stocking our shelves so we can all stay safe — has become our go-to way to stay sane.

Artists draw life under Coronavirus:

Examples:



JON STICH

Oakland, California

The Bay Area is great, but the juxtaposition of wealth and poverty is clear. This isn't a scene I saw, but considering how haywire everything has gotten here, it's not difficult to imagine a well-to-do fellow skirting past a tent encampment on one of those unicycle things, balancing evidence of his excess.

Rohan More, Mumbai

This contemporary visual artist has been making art for five years and his breakthrough moment was with the series 'Vilayti Shauk', a tongue-in-cheek take on hype culture. "This artwork reflects the irony of the lockdown in India. As humans I think we're beings of subjugation, and animals often bear the brunt of that. Now that we are confined to our homes, the earth finally has space to breathe and animals are hopefully getting a break from relentless human activity. That's what I wanted to communicate through the artwork: that, for once, the captor is now the captive."



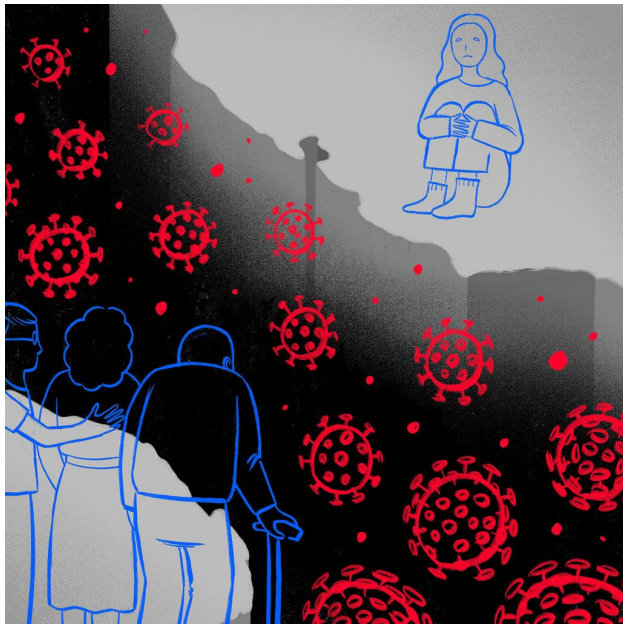
Artists draw life under Coronavirus:

Examples:

KYUNG CHYUN

New York, New York

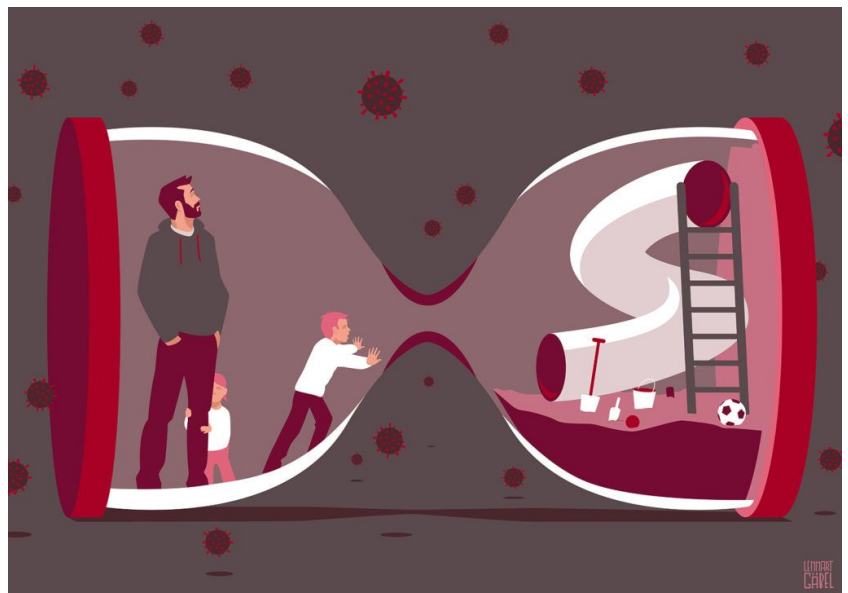
I'm an immigrant woman, living and working in the States. I'm originally from South Korea and most of my family are in Seoul, one of the most affected cities outside of China. I'm in contact with my family, and they're sending some harrowing stories: Standing in line for government-provided masks in frigid weather; local markets running out of rice, restocking, then quickly running out again. My 91-year-old grandfather — who is deeply in love with my grandmother — hasn't seen her since January because her living facility has banned all visitors. Already separated by thousands of miles, the crisis is making the distance between my family and me feel immense. I'm more anxious about my family's health than I am worried about my own, but I guess that's normal. It's accentuated by the pandemic. In this drawing, I wanted to show the distance — physical and emotional — between us.



LENNART GABEL

Hamburg, Germany

Around 90 percent of my day is entertaining my kids (ages 1 and 3) while my wife is at work. When she's home and the kids are asleep, I try to cram an entire day's work into the few hours left. So dear coronavirus, if you're reading this: How about a cease-fire?





Examples of other contemporary, controversial, political, moral, social issues:

List Below

- Poverty
 - Climate Change
 - Overpopulation
- Civil Rights and Racial Discrimination
 - Healthcare Availability
 - Bullying
 - Immigration Stresses
 - Health Care Availability
 - Animal Rights
 - Cloning
 - Income inequality
- Physician-assisted suicide



Check for Understanding:

1. How did you decide on a current issue?
2. What inspired your creativity? Did you go for realism or stylistic?
3. What difficulties did you have with your contemporary issues brainstorm?
4. How would you describe your inspiration?
5. What suggestions would you share if you were to direct a peer on this artwork so far?
6. What do you think your weaknesses and strengths are at this point?
7. Do you think this helped broaden your scope of materials?
8. Have you tried something like this before?
9. Did you have difficulty creating something original?
10. Did you use a reference? Why or why not?



Announcement:

Please post your artwork on Twitter and/or Instagram using the hashtag #isddoesart

All of the teachers are excited to see our students and their work!



Resources and Supporting Material:

[NY Times- Street Art Confronts Pandemic](#)
[Fight Corona with Art](#)

[Architectural Digest - How global art world is responding to COVID](#)

[Graffiti Street Phlegm](#)

[Global Issues](#)

[Politico- Artists draw life under Coronavirus](#)