

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: First Grade through Eighth Grade

Lesson Duration: 35-40 Minutes

Subjects: Art & Design



Image: Teacher Sample

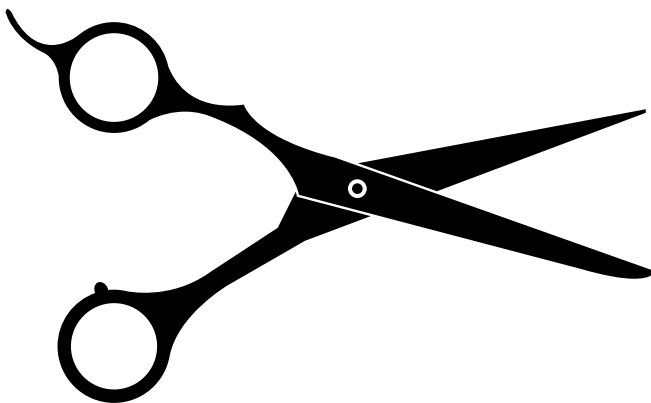
Gridded Collages Inspired by Sara Siestreem

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA EDUCATORS

Description

Students will select and arrange pre-cut paper squares onto a grid template to create a thoughtful composition. For inspiration, students will look to the work of Sara Siestreem, an artist who organizes their artwork through repetition, pattern and contrast.

Materials



- Pre-cut paper squares cut from magazines
- Cardstock with template printed to it (see examples)
- Glue sticks
- Scrap paper for bookmarks

Instructions

- 1) Before beginning this project, invite students to look at a selection of **Sara Siestrem's photographs** (included at the end of this lesson). Ask them to look carefully and share things that they see repeating in multiple photographs (e.g. plants, circles, letter, signs, words).
- 2) Explain that artists consider and **plan** the **composition** or organization of their artwork according to concepts such as repetition, pattern and contrast.
- 3) Introduce the project and materials: Everyone will receive one gridded paper and have access to a pile of paper tiles. Each student will think of a theme or way of organizing their artwork. They will select 20 paper tiles and arrange them on to their grid. When they have arranged their tiles, they can raise their hand, explain their composition and then receive a glue stick. Explain that “random” or “color” are not strong themes, but “green”, “images with faces” or alternating color tiles would be.



Teacher samples pictured above. The template is a 5x4 of 1.25" squares made from a punch.

4) Distribute materials and circulate as students select their tiles. As students finish, check that they have a theme or pattern that they can articulate before giving them a glue stick.

6) If students finished early, they can make a bookmark using the tiles.

***NOTES: Having several examples for students to look at is helpful. It is also important to have a variety of tiles in terms of colors, shapes and content. Art magazines were an excellent source. We used a paper punch to create the tiles, but another option might be to cut strips of paper into squares. We found that the punches created consistently sized tiles and allowed us to avoid inappropriate imagery.



Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Composition
- ✓ Pattern
- ✓ Repetition
- ✓ Contrast
- ✓ Color
- ✓ Shape



Image: Sample by Lynn Prewitt

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

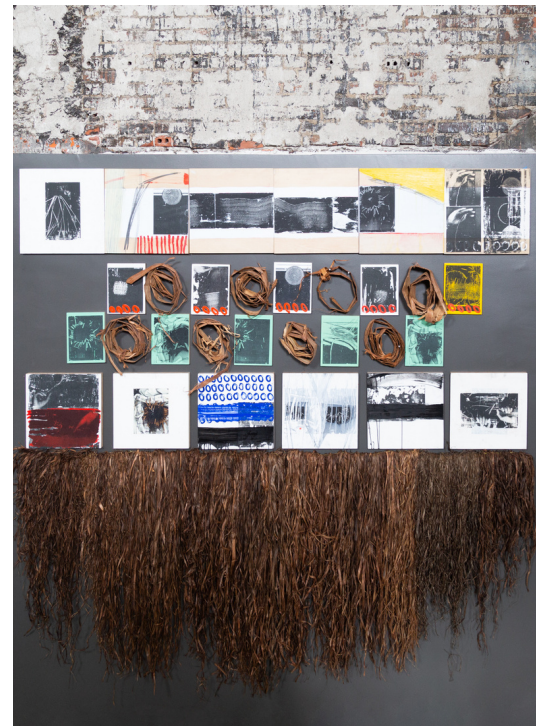
- **First Grade** (VA:Cr1.2.1) Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.
- **Second Grade** (VA:Cr2.2.2) Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces.
- **Third Grade** (VA:Cr1.2.3) Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the artmaking process.
- **Fourth Grade** (VA:Cr2.1.4) Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.
- **Fifth Grade** (VA:Cr1.2.5) Identify and demonstrate diverse methods of artistic investigation to choose an approach for beginning a work of art.
- **Sixth Grade** (VA:Cr2.1.6) Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.
- **Seventh Grade** (VA:Cr1.2.7) Develop criteria to guide making a work of art or design to meet an identified goal.
- **Eighth Grade** (VA:Cr.2.3.8) Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

Sara Siestreem

Sara Siestreem is a Pacific Northwest Native artist. She is a member of the Confederated Tribe of Coos in Oregon and holds a MFA from Pratt Art Institute. Her paintings and prints are abstract and draw off of observations from the environment. Her exploration of repeating patterns and symbols may inspire students in their collage process.



Headshot of Siestreem
Photo Source; Portland State University



Upper Left: Siestreem presenting her artwork

Source: Portland Art Museum

Bottom Left: Days and Days

Source: Arts.wa.gov

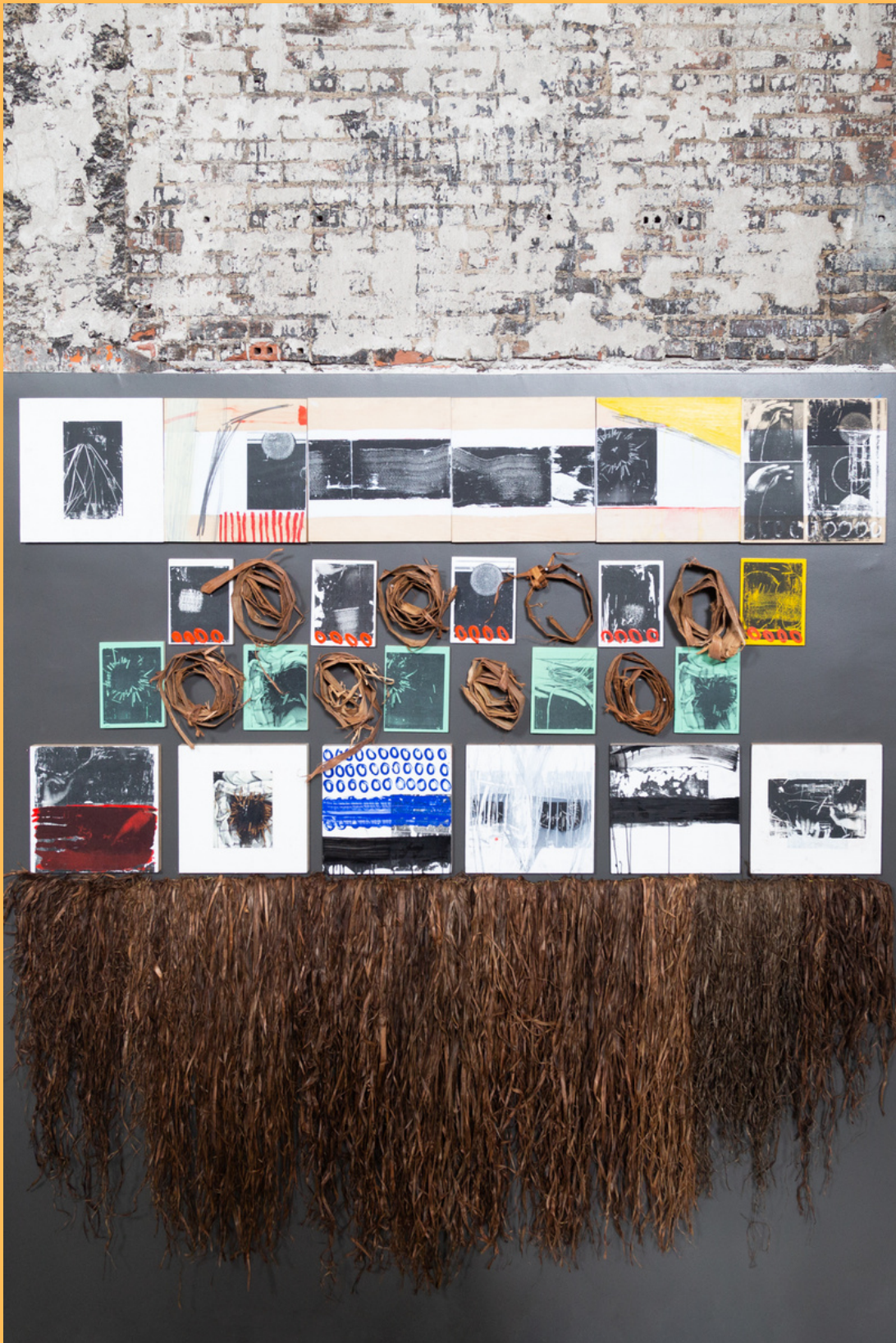
Above: Eagle Machine >>>>dancing the beautiful

Source: Augen Gallery



Days and Days

Source: Arts.wa.gov



Eagle Machine >>> dancing the beautiful

Source: Augen Gallery



They Got on Like a House on Fire

Source: Augen Gallery