

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Still Life Plants: Inspired by Dorota Haber-Lehigh

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA EDUCATORS

Description

This lesson will help students to connect life and art through botanical art. During this lesson, students will review selected flower prints by Dorota Haber-Lehigh and use them as inspiration for their own magnified floral chalk drawings.

Vocabulary

- ✓ Parts of a flower
- ✓ Pastels
- ✓ Still life
- ✓ Botanical illustration
- ✓ Blending

Age: Third Grade

Lesson Duration: 1 hour

Subject: Plant Reproduction



Teacher sample

Materials

- [Video on parts of a flower](#)
- [Video on botanical illustration](#)
- Variety of real flowers
- Chalks or oil pastels
- Black and white paper
- Pencils
- *Origami Camellia and Magnolia Branch* by Dorota Haber-Lehigh (attached at the end of the lesson)
- Optional: magnifying glasses

Instructions

1) Introduce students to the activity by showing them the attached videos on the parts of a plant and botanical illustration.

- After showing the videos, go over the relevant vocabulary to ensure the students have an understanding of flowers and how they are drawn.

2) Show students the attached works by Dorota Haber-Lehigh and have a Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) discussion about the works. VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.

- Ask students about their previous experiences with flowers. Have they ever been to a botanical garden? Do they grow flowers at home? This is a great opportunity to pass out the real flower examples and allow students to examine them.
- After doing the VTS exercise, explain to students that they will be creating their own drawings that will zoom in on aspects of the flowers they see.

3) As a warm-up activity, have students draw a flower with a pencil on scrap paper without looking at one, just from their imaginations. Then sketch one while looking at a real flower. This would be a good time to use magnifying glasses if you have them.

- Compare and contrast the two sketches.

4) Ask students to try and 'zoom in' on their flower and to create their composition so that it takes up the whole paper, using oil pastels or chalk on black paper.

5) Hang up the work to have a class discussion about the students' pieces.

About the Artist: Dorota Haber-Lehigh



Image Credit: dorotahaberlehigh.com

Dorota Haber-Lehigh is a Polish artist currently in residence on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Dorota's passion for nature began when she was a child, and she has continued that passion throughout her adult life. Dorota holds degrees in botanical illustration, art, international studies, and teaching. She describes her art as emphasizing the interconnected nature of ecosystems, ecological diversity, and species codependence.

"...NOTHING IN NATURE IS ISOLATED, WE ARE INTERCONNECTED IN MULTIPLE AND SUBTLE WAYS. WE CANNOT THRIVE WITHOUT EACH OTHER."

-DOROTA HABER-LEHIGH



Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **VA:Cr2.1.3** (Create personally satisfying artwork, using a variety of artistic processes and materials)
- **VA:Cr2.2.3** (Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment for a variety of artistic processes)



Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

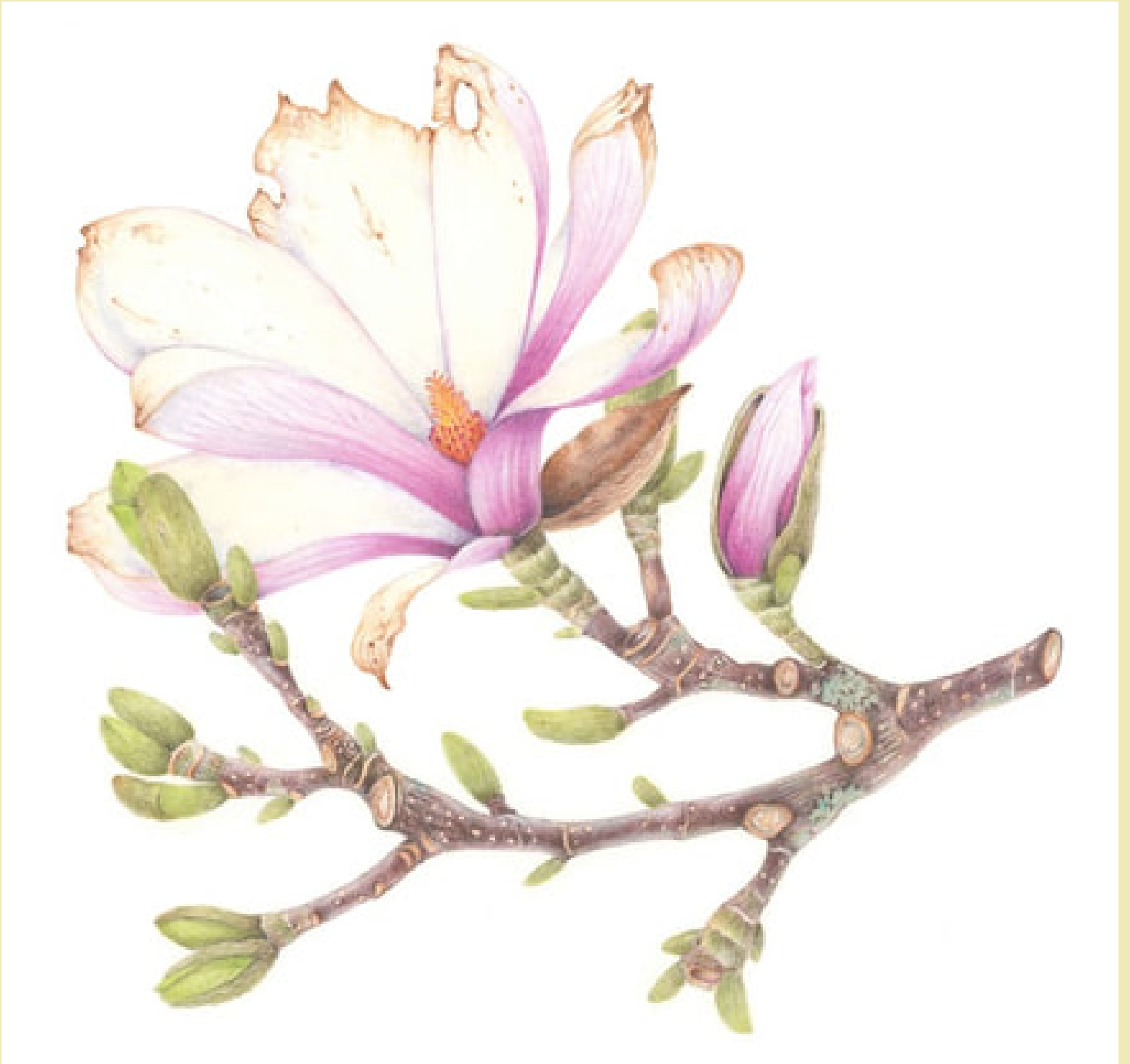
What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators



Origami Camellia, Dorota Haber-Lehigh
Image Source: dorotahaberlehigh.com



Magnolia Branch, Dorota Haber-Lehigh
Image Source: dorotahaberlehigh.com