



2012.0034

## Personal Story

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### Description

Students will explore the work of Norman Akers and how the objects can be a part of telling a story or help make connections. Then students will find visuals that can help tell their story and create a work inspired by Akers' art.

### Grade Levels

Middle School (7th/8<sup>th</sup>)

### Subject

ELA or Visual Arts

### Length of Lesson

2.5 weeks (14 class periods)

## Standards

Va:Cr1.1.8a

Va:Cr2.3.8a

Va:Pr5.1.8a

## Objectives

Students can use personal connections to create a work of art that tells a part of their story.

## Materials

- Color print outs of works
- Colored pencils
- Drawing pencils
- Watercolor paint
- Computers
- Sharpies
- 12x18 Drawing paper

## Steps

Day 1:

Look at the collage work of Norman Akers. Each table will have a different piece of his collection. They will make predictions of what the story could be in each of the works. Each table will share out, so each table can visualize what each work looks like.

Things the students will consider:

1. Use of color
2. Placement of objects
3. How objects relate or tell story

Day 2:

Students will create a mind map of themselves; some of the bubbles can be but not limited to family, personal wellness, hobbies, food. As students explore who they are as a person they will select 5-7 different things they wrote out in their mind map and then use those as their visuals.

Students will start to sketch out the 5-7 items in their sketchbook separately and then cut each one of them out.

Day 3:

All items that have been sketched out and cut out will then be used like a puzzle to organize different compositions for their final creation. They will explore overlapping, sizing and color. Each composition they come up with will be photographed and put in online slides to show progress.

Day 4:

Work with partners to help each other pick out the final piece of those photographed on day 3.

Start sketching out on 12x18 drawing paper

Day 5-8:

Work Days

Day 9:

Have a working critique. Students each have 3 post-its. They will walk around the room and give kudos and guiding questions that can help the artists. Students then will look at their comments and make changes as needed to better their work.

Day 10-14:

Work and Finish piece.

When they are all finished, they will present their final work to a small group in the class.

## **Object Resources**

[Norman Akers "The Wait" in the Spencer's online collection](#)

## **Lesson Resources**

<https://spencerartapps.ku.edu/collection-search#/artist/24594> - Norman Akers pieces in the Spencer Museum of Art's collection