MARC CRUZ

NEW MEDIA

8th-9th Grade | Photography
Lesson Overview:
In this lesson, students will create symmetrical images by transforming and mirroring digital photographs in the likes of artists Allan deSouza. They will use a photo editing program to achieve this, while also thinking about the image’s composition, brightness, contrast, hue and saturation. They will then make connections to the rorschach test, in which they will participate in the study using their edited photographs.

Learning Objectives
Interpreting Art
Students will develop an understanding on the different way’s artist can transform original photographs to create a new composition that relate to visions our social imagination
Developing Works of Art
Students will successfully create a series of photographs that have been manipulated using a photo editing program
Relating Art to Content
Students will think about how they can create mirrored images that question our social imaginations

Art Making Overview and Motivation Steps:
1. An artist presentation will be given on Allan deSouza, focusing on his 2008 Divine Series. There will be a discussion on his images and themes he explores.
2. Students will then be introduced to their assignment, where they will be tasked to take photographs of their environment to then transform and mirror the images. Students should have a series of at least 5 edited images. A demonstration on ways to capture an image will be given.
3. Students will have time to capture photographs, where accommodations should be made for those who don’t have access to a camera. Students should be thinking about how the images will be transformed, and if it would be successful.
4. Once students have all their images, there will be an Adobe Photoshop demonstration on how to add adjustments to images and how to transform and mirror the images.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rFC0VYFV-w
https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/how-to/photo-editor.html
5. Students will be given work time to edit their images, where feedback and additional instruction can be given. Once students have their images, they should work on printing their images on photo paper.
6. Introduce Rorschach and inkblot tests to students as they will participate in the test using their images. Students will pair up and discuss what they see in each other’s images. Students should document what their partner sees, as they will switch to another person a few more times. In the end students will share their images with the class and what their peers saw in the images.
Allan deSouza, b. 1958, Nairobi, Kenya

a photographer and multimedia artist born to Indian parents who later moved to London, England when he was 7. He studied at Goldsmiths College in London, but earned his BFA from Bath Academy of Art in 1983. After moving to the US in 1992, he participated in the Whitney Independent Study Program. Then, in 1997 he received a master's in photography from UCLA. deSouza has exhibited work at museums and galleries in all over the US as well as other locations in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Art Making Overview:

his work explores ideas of migration, relocation, and international travel. Much of his work have themes of movement, travel, dislocation, memory and time. deSouza has also examined geography, culture, and personal identity within his photographs, installations, and writings. Within his photography, he has worked with film and digital photographs, sometimes using old film and manipulating them to then create digital prints. He has also worked with installations that involve video and audio projections, and has done a few art performances. He has created sculptures using mixed media. In 2018 he wrote a book regarding how art is discussed, valued and taught titled How Art Can Be Thought: A Handbook for Change.

Projections is an installation featuring two arenas divided by a clear screen. On one side, there is a machine that shoots balls against the screen, while a video is shown from the viewers side. The video is based on a photograph of Edward Said, who in 2001 was shown throwing a stone across the border from Lebanon into Israel. The video is meant to examine Said’s actions and the controversies it caused in politics. The arena itself shows a depiction of the original photograph in a pointillist style.

Divine series consists of mirrored images of land, water, and skylscapes taken during commercial flights. The doubled images are, what deSouza states on his website, meant to suggest "divine-like manifestations, whether human-made shrines, mythological figures, aliens and other figments of the social imagination."