SYMMETRY SPACE

TEACHER(S):

DURATION: (1) 30-45 minute class

21st CENTURY SKILLS:
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Thinking
- Collaborating
- Initiative
- Media Literacy
- Informational Literacy
- Social Skills
- Leadership
- Tech Literacy
- Flexibility
- Social Skills
- Leadership
- Productivity

INQUIRY FOCUS

“How can I reflect symmetry through positive and negative space in a piece of art?”

ENGAGEMENT

Begin by viewing various artwork that demonstrates the use of positive/negative space and which contain symmetrical elements. Some examples include M.C. Escher and Greek pottery.

TRANSITION

Using the Escher gallery of symmetry (http://www.mcescher.com/gallery/symmetry/), examine each piece for lines of symmetry and explore creating symmetrical drawings of shapes using a line of symmetry between each.

LESSON SEQUENCE

Step 1: Provide each student with a piece of sketch paper and ask them to create a drawing that uses positive/ negative space and also is symmetrical. Provide items as examples, such as a feather, a fish, or a flag.

Step 2: Give each student a piece of cardstock, paint brushes, water, various colors of tempra paint and palletes/ paper plates for mixing.

Step 3: Using long brush strokes paint the entire piece of cardboard a dark color. Then, add a bit of white and mix in from the middle up towards the top to create a bit of tint (lightness) and add depth to the image.

Step 4: Once dry, give each student a white colored pencil. Students transfer their original sketch onto the painted paper using the white colored pencil. This creates a “carved” or “printed” effect. Students must ensure that their image is symmetrical using rulers and that there is use of positive/negative space.

Step 5: Finally, add a paint glaze over the entire image. This seals the artwork. When dry, the image will “glow” when held up to the light or when placed on the outside of a glass jar with a candle inside.

MATERIALS LIST:

- Escher gallery of symmetry
- Projector/Computer
- Tempra paints (various colors, including white)
- White colored pencils and paint brushes
- Cardstock, water
- Sketchbook paper and pencils

ASSESSMENT:

CHECKLIST

- The artwork contains a line of symmetry.
- The artwork demonstrates positive and negative space.
- The artwork is precise and reflects clarity in creative vision.

TEACHER NOTES