

Bronx Academy of Letters

MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY

Sabrina Resnick
Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters
In Partnership with the Marian Goodman Gallery

Unconventional Self Portrait Gabriel Orozco and the Artistic Mindset

Context and Introduction

This unit was written for students in a 10-12 Visual Arts course at the Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters in the fall of 2020 during virtual learning. The following materials were created with the intention of introducing students to the concept of the “artistic mindset”—a way of thinking about the world and approaching art with an open mind and the intention to prioritize the creative process over the final product. It draws heavily from concepts found in Hetland’s *Studio Habits of Mind* (Studio Thinking, 2007).

With assistance from the Marian Goodman Gallery, students learned about Gabriel Orozco and were introduced to his thought process. They then created “living journals” based on the philosophy behind Orozco’s own notebooks and used these collections of observations to inspire unconventional self-portraits.

National Arts Standards addressed:

VA:Cr1.1.1a *Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors*

VA:Cr2.1.1a *Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.*

VA:Re.7.2.1a *Analyze how one’s understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery.*

VA:Cn10.1.1a *Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas.*

Due to the nature of virtual learning, some lessons were taught synchronously live and others were asynchronous remote posts or check-ins.

Part 1: Gabriel Orozco and the Artistic Mindset

1. Gabriel Orozco and the Artistic Mindset
 - a. [Gabriel Orozco at Tate Modern video](#) introducing Orozco
 - b. Written reflection: “What inspires you as an artist?”

2. Unlocking the Artistic Mindset
 - a. [Slides](#)
 - b. Beginning of brainstorm in journal (digitally or in sketchbook)

3. Artistic Mindset Investigation
 - a. Continued work on journal, with access to the following materials:
 - i. [Pages from Orozco notebooks](#)
 - ii. [Marian Goodman Gallery Orozco 2020 exhibition](#)
 - b. Written reflection: “Pull one artifact from Orozco’s collection that stands out to you. Why did you choose it?”

4. Artistic Mindset Reflection
 - a. Students submit final journals
 - b. Written reflection: “Which of your observations is the most interesting to you? What is something that makes you feel like an artist? What did you learn from a peer that you might want to use yourself?”

Part 2: The Unconventional Self Portrait

1. Project Intro: Unconventional Self Portrait
 - a. [Slides](#)
 - b. Beginning of project work time

2. Individual Check-Ins
 - a. A series of written reflections and individual check-ins with students to help guide them through their creative process

3. Artistic Mindset Critique
 - a. Slides presenting student work
 - b. [Individual Reflection](#)
 - c. [Rubric](#)

This lesson plan can be downloaded and used by all for the purposes of education, teaching, virtual learning, private study and/or research.

Please feel free to contact the gallery at education@mariangoodman.com if you need further information or resources.