Lesson Title: Draw My World
Grades: K–5
Time Required: One–two 45 minute class periods
Subject Areas: Visual Art, English, Social Justice/Empathy

Lesson Overview: Can art help us see the world through someone else’s eyes? Students explore this question through guided looking, hands-on activities, and related storybooks. Then students work in pairs to learn more about each other and create an artwork that reflects the way their partner sees the world.

Common Core Academic Standards
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.3
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.5

National Core Arts Standards
- VA:Cr1.2.4a
  Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers.
- VA:Cr3.1.2a
  Discuss and reflect with peers about choices made in creating artwork.
- VA:Cn10.1.2a
  Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life.

Learning Objectives:
Students will be able to:
- Analyze an artwork and make connections between an artwork and a text
- Conduct interviews with their classmates
- Use color, line, and shape to make an artwork that reflects someone else’s perspective and mood

Artworks in Focus:
Click on the links below to access these images through the Wadsworth’s Public Portal. Once on the portal, click on the image to view the object information. Click on the image again to download a jpeg version of the work. NOTE: The works of art used in this lesson may not currently be on view at the museum.

Bob Thompson, Garden of Music, 1960
Clementine Hunter, Cotton Picking, c.1940
Claude Monet, The Church at Vernon, 1883

Materials:
- Access to the Artworks in Focus
- Projector and screen/ SMART board, or equivalent
- Storybooks listed below
- Draw My World Interview sheets (included in this lesson plan)
- Pencil/eraser
- Unlined paper
- Art supplies of your choice: Colored pencils, markers, watercolor pencils, watercolors, collage materials, glue, scissors
- Mini-Activities:
  - Bob Thompson:
    - Duke Ellington recording
    - Device to play music
    - Collage shapes
    - Unlined paper
  - Clementine Hunter:
    - Paper or other surface to draw/paint on (cardboard, paper bags, etc.)
    - Colored Pencils or medium of your choice
  - Claude Monet
    - Paintbrushes

TEACHER RESOURCE
thewadsworth.org/teachers
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, School and Teacher Programs
teachers@wadsworthatheneum.org
Picture books:

Lesson Procedures:
Part 1: Entering an Artist’s World

1. Choose an artwork by an artist and a related children’s book (see suggestions above).
2. Read the children’s book with your students and make connections between the artist’s life and his/her artwork. Engage your students with the following:
   a. Where does each story take place? How is this place special?
   b. Who else is in the story? Why are they important?
   c. Ask your students to pay close attention to the illustrations. What do they see? What kinds of lines, shapes, colors, and textures?
3. Project the accompanying artwork and ask students to notice any similarities between the book and the work of art.
4. Incorporate the appropriate activity:
   a. Activity for Bob Thompson:
      - After reading *Bring on That Beat,* ask students what shapes and colors were used to represent sounds? What about in the *Garden of Music?*
      - Tell students they are going to hear a recording of Duke Ellington. One example from YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZZCxQrM_aA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZZCxQrM_aA)
      - Hand out collage shapes. Working in pairs, have students arrange a collage to represent the music of Duke Ellington.
      - Have students share their arrangements.
      - After the activity, return to the painting. Ask students for any new observations/thoughts.
   b. Activity for Clementine Hunter:
      - After reading *Art from Her Heart,* discuss with students the kinds of things Clementine Hunter liked to paint (memories from her daily life on Melrose Plantation, like dances, picking cotton, cooking, washing, etc.). She called her works “memory paintings.”
      - Tell students they are going to create their own “memory painting” of a time in their own lives. Brainstorm some possible examples as a class. Discuss what would be important to include in their memory painting. Where did the memory take place? Who was there? What other details are important?
      - Hand out art-making supplies (optional: Clementine Hunter often painted on whatever was lying around, like cardboard, bottles, etc.—you may want to make that connection by having students paint on recycled materials).
      - Have students complete their memory paintings, encouraging them to use up the whole space, like Clementine Hunter.
      - After the activity, return to the painting. Ask students for any new observations/thoughts.
c. Activity for Claude Monet
   - After reading Monet Paints a Day, discuss Monet’s brushstrokes with students. How does he capture the light and air and water so quickly?
   - Hand out paintbrushes and have students mimic the kinds of movements they would have to make to paint this scene. How did it feel?
   - After the activity, return to the painting. Ask students for any new observations/thoughts.

Part 2: Learn more about my world
   1. Tell students they are now going to learn more about each other and make works of art designed especially for their classmates!
   2. Divide students into pairs and hand out interview sheets. Review the questions as a class, making sure the students understand the terms and objectives of each question.
   3. Have students complete the interview sheets for one another. They can circle more than one option for each question.

Part 3: Draw my World
   1. Explain to students that they will be using this interview sheet to create a work of art about a place that is special to their partner.
   2. This activity can be done in any medium. The works must incorporate the lines, shapes, and colors their partner likes to see in art.
   3. Share as a class: did your students learn more about one another through art?
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bob Thompson, *Garden of Music* (1960)

Complete with lollipop trees, abstracted figures, and expressive color, *Garden of Music* pays homage to the jazz musicians who Thompson (1937–1966) knew, admired, and regularly spent time with while painting. The musicians in the middle of the painting are (from left to right) Ornette Coleman (sax), Don Cherry (trumpet), John Coltrane (sax), Sonny Rollins (sax), Ed Blackwell (seated with drum), and Charles Haden (bass). He also included a self-portrait, the figure in the broad-brimmed hat in the lower right corner of the composition.

Clementine Hunter, *Cotton Picking* (c.1940)

Clementine Hunter (1886 or 1887–1988) was born in 1886 on Hidden Hill Plantation in Louisiana, the granddaughter of enslaved people. She moved to Melrose Plantation at the age of 14 where she spent the rest of her life. Melrose Plantation was founded by a formerly enslaved Creole man in the 18th century. In the 20th century it became an artist’s retreat under Carmelite Garrett Henry. Hunter initially picked cotton on the plantation, before doing domestic work. She married twice and raised five children. She began painting in her 50s—her first painting was on a linen window shade. The artists staying at the plantation encouraged her work, and by the time of her death at 101 Hunter had painted over 4,000 works. She called her works “memory paintings,” documenting everyday life in her world. Her paintings encompass aspects of southern black life not often captured, including work, social, and religious activities.

Claude Monet, *The Church at Vernon* (1883)

Claude Monet (1840–1926) was a French painter who was partially responsible for the creation of the Impressionist movement in the late 19th century. He was concerned with capturing the fleeting effects of light in his paintings, which he completed with quick short brushstrokes and bright colors. Just after moving to nearby Giverny, Monet painted this sun-filled scene of the church in the town of Vernon in Normandy, France. His vantage point, downstream from Giverny, was the meadows of Vernonnet. He would go on to create several paintings of this church, each from a different spot along the River Seine.
Bob Thompson
American, 1937–1966
*Garden of Music*, 1960
Oil on canvas
The Ella Gallup Sumner and
Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1987.4
© Estate of Bob Thompson; Courtesy of Michael
Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY
Claude Monet
French, 1840–1926
The Church at Vernon, 1883
Oil on canvas
Private Collection,
T.L.1997.36.1
Instructions: Choose a partner. Take turns asking each other the questions below. Write down your partner’s answers.

1. What is your favorite place in the world? What makes it special?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. What do you like to do when you are there?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3. If you could bring someone there with you, who would you bring? Why?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
DRAW MY WORLD INTERVIEW WORKSHEET: SIDE B

Instructions: Take turns asking your partner the questions below. Circle your partner’s answers. They can pick up to three answers for each question.

What colors do you like seeing in art?

- Red
- Blue
- Yellow
- Orange
- Green
- Purple

What kinds of lines do you like to see in art?

- ---
- /
- ---
- \n- \n
What kinds of shapes do you like to see in art?

- Rectangle
- Square
- Oval
- Circle
- Triangle
- Star

How do you like to feel when you look at art?

- HAPPY
- CALM
- CONFUSED
- THOUGHTFUL
- EXCITED
- CURIOUS
- SURPRISED
- SILLY

Do you like art that is:

- REALISTIC
- ABSTRACT
- A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH