



MORRIS CENTER

FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE

Grade Levels:

K-12

Duration:

10 minutes to introduce the activity

30- 40 minutes for activity

Materials:

- Paper (drawing and lined)
- Pencils
- Reference images of assemblages by Kirkland Smith

SC State Standards:

SCCCR-Social Studies

MWH.4, MWH.5, USHC.4

English Language Arts

(I)2.1, 3.1, 3.2 (W) 3.1

Visual Arts

VA.R NH.5.1, VA.C NL.6

Key Terms:

assemblage

memory

material culture

nostalgia

What's the Story? Lesson Plan

Overview

In this study, students will examine some of the works of Kirkland Smith. The students will be lead through a visual literacy discussion. Afterwards, students will write a short piece about the lives of the people who would have owned an object in one of Smith's artworks.

This activity can be done anytime. It works well as a pre-visit activity in connection with *The (In)disposable Art of Kirkland Smith* on view [January 14 - July 15, 2023].

Learning Objectives

- Students will develop observation and visual literacy skills through critical examination of images and objects.
- Students will cultivate critical thinking skills as they make connections to people and the objects they might have owned.
- Students will practice writing skills while completing a story about a person's experiences based on their possessions.



MORRIS CENTER

FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE

Activity

- Introduce the activity to your students.

Today we will look closely at some of the artwork of Kirkland Smith. She creates what are called assemblages, using discarded objects to make pictures. After we discuss some of the pieces, you will write a story about the person or people who may have once owned an object in one of the pieces.

- One option is to have the students split into groups for discussion. They can then work on the written activity together or individually. Please see this link: https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson95/coop_rubric.pdf for a Cooperative Learning Rubric to evaluate group participation.
- **Visual Literacy Questions**
 - *What is represented in this picture?*
 - *What objects did the artist use in this piece?*
 - *What object are you drawn to the most? Why?*
 - *Why might someone have owned that object? What was its use?*
 - *If the object is older, what does the object tell us about that person's life?*
- Have students write a 2-5 paragraph story from the perspective of the object's owner. The story can focus on any aspect of the person's relationship with the object and how it connects to their life. [Depending on the grade level you may want to give students some specific guidelines, such as have younger students write sentences or draw images of the people.]
- Students can share their stories and/or images with the class.







