Photorealistic Rendering

National Core Visual Art Standards
VA2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
VA4: Analyze and interpret artistic work.

Objective: Students will analyze the elements of a photorealistic drawing. Students will apply what they’ve learned to complete a short writing assignment.

About This Work: Justice Wynn incorporates multiple elements of art to create a photorealistic drawing. With vibrant colors, she renders the effects of light traveling through glass marbles and reflecting on a black plane. She also uses scale to show the marbles receding into the background, creating the illusion of depth.

Discussion:
*How does Justice depict space in this scene?* (The artist uses the scale of the marbles, which are larger in the foreground than the background, to create space in the drawing.)

*How does Justice represent light?* (She adds bright highlights to show where the light hits the surface of each marble. She also distorts the shape of the marbles reflected on the black surface to represent the way the spheres refract light.)

Write About Art: Write a paragraph about another drawing in the exhibition. *How does the artist represent light and space?*

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Abstract Narrative

National Core Visual Art Standards
VA8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
VA11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Objective: Students will examine a photograph and use context to interpret the narrative. Students will make connections between the visual techniques used and the action represented through a short writing assignment.

About This Work: Mercedes Langdon captures this scene from above. The repetition of forms creates a series of vertical planes composed with varied textures. At first, viewers might not recognize the human figures, which seem to blend together forming a single line.

Discussion:
How does Mercedes use texture in this image? (The texture of the grasses, the cement, the soldiers’ camouflaged clothing, and the shadows appear in a series of planes. This divides the scene vertically and adds a sense of abstraction.)

How does the title of this work help you interpret the scene? (The title of the work, Graduation Day, implies that the scene represented is a graduation ceremony.)

Write About Art: How can a photograph inspire a narrative? Write a short story about what you imagine is happening in this work. Remember to use vivid adjectives to describe the scene.
Zoomorphic Sculpture

National Core Visual Art Standards
VA2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
VA9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Objective: Students will investigate the ways form and materials can complement one another. Students will sketch designs for their own sculptures.

About This Work: Scott Hanna’s sculpture is a functional vessel, but its form is zoomorphic, taking on the form of an animal. Long wires act as supports that suspend the body of the work above the table. Scott weaves the wires through holes in the clay, seamlessly binding the materials together.

Discussion: What aspects of this sculpture reflect its title, Creepy Crawler? (The supporting wires suggest legs similar those of a spider or an octopus’s tentacles.)

How do Scott’s materials work together? (The artist skillfully weaves the wires through the clay, and the wires suspend the clay form from above.)

Sketchbook Starter: Develop a sketch for your own creepy crawler sculpture. Be sure to include notes about the materials you’d want to use.

ARTWORK: Scott Hanna, Creepy Crawler, Ceramics & Glass. Grade 7, Age 12, Detroit Country Day Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI.