**Objective:** Students will assess various methods of using shape to develop an artwork.

**About This Work**
Skylar draws the viewer's eye into the composition using shape. She crops the photograph in an oval, contrasting the white border with the dark image. The oval shape repeats throughout the photograph: the top of the figure's head, the bun on the back of her head, the individual knots in her braids, and even her fingernails. Skylar juxtaposes the round shapes with the straight lines of the figure's legs, arms, and fingers, creating a striking composition.

**Discussion**
How does Skylar use shape to draw the viewer's eye into the photograph? (The oval shape repeats throughout the composition, creating a subtle motif. Skylar juxtaposes the ovals with straight lines, drawing the viewer's eye to the center of the photograph.)

How does cropping emphasize the figure in the photograph? (Skylar crops the picture plane in an oval shape around the figure, making the subject's form the focal point. The black-and-white image contrasts with the stark white border, creating a striking juxtaposition.)

**Photo Prompt**
Take a photograph. Crop the image in a shape that emphasizes the subject.

**Write About Art**
Write a paragraph discussing the artist's use of shape to develop a composition.
Lifelike Light

National Core Visual Art Standards
VA1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
VA5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation

Objective: Students will consider the use of highlights and shadows to create a realistic work of art.

About This Work
Grace carefully renders light to paint a realistic self-portrait. The highlights on the left side of her face, nose, and collarbones demonstrate that the figure sits in bright light, even though the viewer cannot see the light source. Grace adds darker paint to the right side of her face and arm to create shadows. She layers the oil paint to render a smooth, lifelike self-portrait.

Discussion
How does Grace use highlights and shadows to paint a realistic self-portrait? (Grace adds highlights and shadows to her self-portrait to render a realistic depiction of light.)

Discuss the way Grace uses texture in this painting. (Grace layers the paint and uses even brushstrokes to mimic the smooth texture of her skin, her clothes, and the distant landscape in the background.)

Sketchbook Starter
Use colored pencils to sketch a lifelike self-portrait. Gently add layers of paint, creating highlights and shadows to make your portrait realistic.

Write About Art
Craft a narrative for the subject of this painting. Where might she be? And why is she there? Write a page of flash fiction describing the scene.
Simplified Style

**National Core Visual Art Standards**

**VA5**: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation

**VA7**: Perceive and analyze artistic work

**Objective**: Students will analyze methods of simplifying forms in a composition.

**About This Work**

Edward paints a stylized figure on an unconventional canvas to create a simplified composition. He renders the figure’s thick outline with black paint in smudged, expressive lines. He includes only a few of the features viewers might expect to see, and doesn’t follow a consistent scale. Edward leaves the watermark and price tag on the canvas, challenging viewer’s expectations of what qualifies as a finished artwork.

**Discussion**

*How does Edward stylize the figure?* (Edward omits details the viewer might expect to see, embraces an inconsistent scale, and paints the figure using varied, expressive line qualities.)

*How does the unconventional canvas contribute to the simplified composition?* (Edward leaves the watermark and price tag on the artwork, uprooting viewer’s expectations and adding to the composition’s mystery.)

**Sketchbook Starter**

Draw a stylized figure with a black marker. Simplify the forms to create an unexpected composition.

**Write About Art**

Select another portrait in the exhibition. Does the artist stylize the subject? Write a paragraph explaining your interpretation.
Cartoon Communication

National Core Visual Art Standards
VA2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
VA11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Objective: Students will make connections about how to communicate an idea in a work of art.

About This Work
Gabriel sketches a cartoon that makes a statement using simple lines. He draws only the most important elements of the scene. The artist sketches the main image and text in the center of the cartoon, isolating the important message. He employs line drawing techniques to directly communicate an idea to the viewer. Additionally, Gabriel juxtaposes the vast, vivid waves with the browns and greys of the penguin's small, floating stand, evoking an uneasy mood.

Discussion
How does Gabriel communicate an idea to his viewers?
(Gabriel sketches the cartoon using simple lines to directly communicate an idea.)

How does color contribute to the cartoon's mood?
(Gabriel juxtaposes the vivid colors with browns and greys, emphasizing the cartoon's unsettling message.)

Sketchbook Starter
Sketch a cartoon that makes a statement. Use text and simple lines to emphasize your idea.

Write About Art
Identify the message Gabriel communicates to viewers through his cartoon. Write a paragraph in response.