

Michelle Echenique, Teaching Artist



Bio: I utilize found, and natural, material in my mixed media work. Using throwaways is key to the work's impact and intention. I revel in the challenge of repurposing, reshaping and redefining recognizable material, inviting a new take on the familiar, while highlighting contemporary society's overconsumption.

ArtSeed Statement: I met Josefa at Hunters Point Open Studios a couple years back. I was there with Kids & Art—a program that provides art access to children with cancer. I was intrigued with ArtSeed hearing Josefa speak passionately about the organization. Her energy, commitment and belief in the arts as a healing force was infectious and relatable. ArtSeed seemed a good fit for me as I love sharing my faith in the power of creativity.

<https://www.michelleechenique.com>

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Inside, reclaimed paper collage, 7" x 6", 2020



Haiku, reclaimed paper collage, 5.25" x 7.75", 2020

Lesson#: 1 Title: Reclaimed Paper Collage

Date: April 24, 2021

Time of day: 12-1

Artist: Michelle Echenique

Materials/Prep: Cardboard support; interesting paper such as maps, paper bags, magazines, calendars, sheet music, food wrappers; adhesive(s) such as glue stick, nori or Yes! paste, Mod Podge, acrylic medium; scissors.

Introduction/Goals: Art can be made with what many would consider garbage. Begin to see the possibilities in the everyday. Learn the importance of composition in collage. Create an art piece with intention, meant to express a certain feeling or state.

Activity: Introduction to collage, composition, and Eco Art. Explore material options and tips for using “trash” paper. Create/begin work on a collage selecting a word or words to describe how you’re feeling, or this moment in time.

Vocabulary: collage, Eco Art, composition, reclaimed paper

Closing: Share the progress we have all made. Further discussion of materials and best practices.

Successes: Students embrace the idea of using throwaways for art-making, of finding, working with and managing resources.

Challenges: Working with different kinds and weights of paper.

CA State Standard(s): PK.VA:Cr2.1, K.VA:Cr2.1, 3.VA:Cr2.1

Relevant Artist(s) and Distinguished People: Romare Bearden, Barbara Kruger, Pablo Picasso