



Sample Lesson Plan

Title: Upcycled Garment or Art Work

Grades: 9 through 12

Medium: Mixed media, found objects, recycled materials

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Class time required: 6 hours

Sample results:



Vinyl record handbag



Drink pouch purse



Postage stamp hat



Uno card dress



Cardboard package dress



Ramen noodle wrapper booties

For more information: www.ArtMeetsFashion.org

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](http://SanDiegoVisualArtsNetwork.org) (Public Charity 501 (c) 3 EIN #205910283)

2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007 www.SDVAN.net 760.943.0148 info@sdvisualarts.net



Overview: “Upcycling” is the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or a higher environmental value. In this lesson students will explore the various possibilities involved using recycled materials to create garments and accessories to aid them to view discarded objects in a different light.

Objective:

Help students to become more environmentally aware by transforming recycled waste materials (or otherwise useless products), that might end up in a landfill, into a wearable garment or accessory. Enable students to explore the possibilities of a career in the arts.

Materials:

- Found objects (Incomplete board games and decks of cards, bottle tops, twisty ties, styrofoam containers, plastic bottles and bags, paper bags, coffee cups, copy paper waste, packing materials, bubble wrap, straws, aluminum cans, cardboard and plastic packaging, phone books, newspapers, old toys and dolls, metal, computer parts, clothes hangers, records, cds, unwanted greeting cards, letters and envelopes, discarded clothes, fabrics and shoes...)
- Assortment of Glue
- Scissors
- Hole Punch
- Wire
- String
- Tape
- Paint
- Pens, pencils
- Drill and drill bits

Teacher Preparation:

- Instruct students to gather fodder for the project. Ask friends and family to donate unwanted goods, clothes and clean, recycled waste products.
- Prepare a lesson assemble techniques: creating an armature from sculpture wire, wire wrapping, hand stitching, gluing or taping.

Procedures:

- Divide students up into groups of two or more.
- Instruct students to research and find images of upcycled fashions and accessories.
- Demonstrate lesson on assembling techniques.
- Have students prepare a sketch of their design and include materials list and assemblage procedure.
- Allow students class time to build their creations.
- When complete, they must present their finished garment/ accessory, along with their preliminary sketches and plans.
- Have the students evaluate their plan and compare the plan and execution to the final product. Ask them to explain any modifications. Ask them to define where they were successful and how they could have improved their art work.

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Teacher Tips:

- Show examples or pictures of garments made from recycled objects.
- Encourage students to make adjustable or one-size-fits all garments and accessories such as hats, scarves, ponchos and wrap around skirts.
- Advise students to use each other as models/ mannequins for fitting the garments.
- If feasible, it is helpful to use a dress makers dummy, head form or mannequin.

Variation:

- Have the students work in pairs, one making a fashion item from a used art work, one making an art work from a used fashion item. The works should relate together in theme.

CA Content Standards:

Artistic Perception: 1.5 Analyze the material used by a given artist and describe how its use influences the meaning of the work.

Creative Expression: 2.6 Create a two- or three- dimensional work of art that addresses a social issue.

Historical and Cultural Content: 3.2 Identify and describe trends in the visual arts and discuss how the issues of time, place and cultural influence are reflected in selected works of art.

Aesthetic Valuing: 4.4 Articulate the process and rationale for refining and reworking one of their own works of art.

Bibliography/Webography:

Amazon:

- Recycled Re-Seen: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap (Paperback, [Charlene Cerny](#))
- [Big Green Book of Recycled Crafts \(Leisure Arts #4802\)](#) by Leisure Arts
- [Astonishing Art with Recycled Rubbish: Splatter!Splodge!Spl...](#) by [Susan Martineau](#) and Martin Ursell
- [Exploring The Latest Trends In Mixed Media Arts: Projects & Techniques](#) by Cynthia Powell, Sherre Hulbert, Lesley Venable, and Elizabeth Dawson
- [Rubbish!: Reuse Your Refuse](#) by [Kate Shoup](#)

Google:

- [Non-Trashy Recycled and Trash Art | Webdesigner Depot](#)
<http://www.webdesignerdepot.com/2009/12/non-trashy-recycled-and-trash-art/>
- [Recyclart.org, the art of recycling!](#)
- Recycled Art Shows: http://www.re-store.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=114
- <http://www.greatgreenbaby.com>
- <http://www.bonaimo.com/TheGameSeries.html>

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