

Film Lesson Plan

Goals: At the close of this lesson, students will have an understanding of the Neo-Expressionist art movement, specifically the life of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify the work of Jean-Michel Basquiat
2. Students will be able to write about the career and life of Jean-Michel Basquiat
3. Students will be able to identify the works of the Neo-Expressionist period

Lesson Rationale:

Students should be exposed to all types of art history including more current 20th century artists, such as Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Using a film to teach students about the history of an artist gives them a chance to experience the way in which artists interact with other artists, but also the ways in which artists create.

Materials:

Film: Basquiat, directed by Julian Schnabel

Worksheet

Procedure

Students will be given several days of class time to watch the film “Basquiat”. While watching the film, students will be filling out a worksheet and answering the following questions:

1. Do you think Basquiat’s collaboration with Warhol hurt his career or helped it?
2. Do you think Julian Schnabel’s style of filming lends itself to capturing the essence of Jean-Michel’s style of painting?
3. When compared to the paintings of other masters such as Da Vinci or Van Gogh, do you consider Jean-Michel Basquiat’s work to be in the same realm of genius as those painters are considered?
4. When watching Basquiat’s method of applying paint to canvas (or any other object), how does this compare with your methods of painting or creating art? How is it similar? How is it different?

Students should be instructed to answer these questions in short essay form because after viewing the film they will be asked to write an essay about the life and career of Jean-Michel Basquiat using the previous questions as a frame work.

Assignment:

The essay should be typed, double-spaced and a minimum of 2 pages. Students should address the previous questions as an outline but feel free to expand upon those questions when addressing the artwork of Basquiat. Students should also feel free to address Julian Schnabel’s style of filming and how it may have added or detracted from the story itself.

In addition to watching the film and writing the essay, students will also be asked to design an art assignment as a group. They will research Neo-expressionism individually and then, as a group, design a project that addresses some aspect of Neo-expressionism.