Creativity and Being an Artist
WHO IS AN ARTIST?

- GMA elephant
- monkey painting
Creative people tend to possess certain traits:
1. Sensitivity - heightened awareness
2. Flexibility - adapt to new possibilities
3. Originality - problem solving creatively
4. Playfulness - humor & experimentation
5. Productivity - ability to generate ideas
6. Fluency - free flow of ideas
7. Analytical skill - exploring problems, & finding how they work
8. Organizational skill - putting things together in a coherent order
Visual Thinking

- Building a Visual Vocabulary:
- Personal Perspective based on: culture, experience, context
- Social versus Internal Perceptions: “Do artists really ‘paint what they see?’”
- LOOKING VERSUS SEEING

Picasso. Portrait of Dora Maar.
What’s your apple?
Alana, age 2. First Lines.

Alana, age 3. Grandma.

Alana, House.
Jeff, age 3. Hand with Line and Spots.

29 Jason, almost 4. Mother Octopus with Babies.
Anonymous Child. BIRDS.

a. This picture shows one child’s drawing of a bird before exposure to coloring books.

b. Then the child colored a workbook illustration.

Birds. Showing stages of Artistic Development:

From representational to free abstract
Diego by Haley. Aged 5
Kojyu (age 9) Searching for Bugs in the Park f. 24
Yuki (age 8) *I can ride my Unicycle*
WHEN DO WE JUDGE? WHO IS THE JUDGE?

He knows everything about art, but he doesn't know what he likes.
Art can be more than just something we ‘like’.

- Art can be something we ‘appreciate’.

LEARNING TO APPRECIATE NOT JUST ‘LIKE OR DISLIKE’
• Social perceptions (fame and notoriety)
• Critical writings
• Art market
• Cultural bias
• Cultural context
• Object context
• Artist’s biography or autobiography

What affects our Judgment?
Form and Content
LEARNING TO LOOK BEYOND THE FRAME
What makes this painting interesting?

When we look at it, what do we see that makes us look more closely?

What do we want to know that brings this work to like?
• I ‘like the colors’
• I like the theme, it’s ‘fun’ and makes me ‘happy’
• The clown in the front seems to set everything off balance and make it even more ‘circus-like’

• We talk about the dynamic perspective.
• mimicking compositional devices borrowed from Japanese Edo Prints like this Samurai image
• We talk about his use of complimentary colors, demonstrating his interest in optics and physics.

SIMPLE VERSUS COMPLEX
The samurai returning from his lover, 19th century, ukiyo-e art print from the Kabuki theatre series, woodcut. Japanese civilisation, Edo period, 17th-19th century.
42 Rodin *The Kiss* 1880-6 bronze f.42
(marble) 5’11 ¼”

43 Constantin Brancusi *The Kiss* 1912
limestone 23”x13”x10” f. 43
• Sometimes ‘Good Art’ deals with ‘Bad things’ or Ugly things.
• Appreciation depends upon the ability to move beyond visceral response

YOU DON’T HAVE TO LIKE IT FOR IT TO BE GOOD!
Caravaggio. Salome Receives the Head of John the Baptist, 1607-10 (oil on canvas)
Do you ‘like’ the colors?
Do you ‘like’ the butterflies?
Do you ‘dislike’ the colors?
Do you ‘dislike’ the butterflies?

*What if I told you that they are real butterflies that he embedded in paint.* Do you still like it? Is it a bit macabre? A bit creepy?
The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living, 1991
Hirst. For the Love of God. Diamond encrusted Skull.
Iconography = writing with pictures

LEARNING TO READ THE MEANING IN ART
Internal Visual Codes

Hendrik Andrieszen - 17th Century

Flack. Vanitas (Wheel of Fortune). 1977-8
14.43 Bellini. San Giobbe Altarpiece. 1480s.
Vanitas, by Pieter Claesz (1597-1660).
Ganesha Symbolism

Large Ears - Listen more
Axe - To cut off all bonds of attachment
Small Mouth - Talk less
Blessings - Blesses and protects on spiritual path to supreme
Large stomach - Peacefully digest all good and bad in life
Prasada - The whole world is at your feet and for your asking

Big Head - Think Big
Small Eyes - Concentrate
Rope - To pull you nearer to the highest goal
One Tusk - Retain good, throw away bad
Trunk - High Efficiency and Adaptability
Muiaka - Rewards of Sathana

Mouse - Desire. Unless under control can cause havoc, you ride the desire and keep it under control and don't allow it to take you for a ride.
Chinese Monumental Buddhas
Japanese Monumental Buddhas
Buddha Thailand
Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing? by Richard Hamilton
Bettye Saar: Liberation of Aunt Jemima 1972
Ladies! Here's a Temptilatin' Lunch Chilluns Love

Recipe
Try This
APPLE-RING SYRUP—IT'S DELICIOUS!
1 cup dark corn syrup
2 red-skinned apples cooked and sliced
2 tablespoons shortening
1 teaspoon vanilla

Get Both
The red box for pancakes and waffles.
The yellow box for buckwheat.

Aunt Jemima Secret Recipe Pancakes

A Characteristic Wing Dance Two Step
Jemima's Wedding Day
Music
Marvin Stax
March Polka and Cotillion Walk

Aunt Jemima Advertisement and Figurine
52 Carlos Fresquez. Mi Casa es Su Casa: Yellow Wall (West). 1997. Mixed Media with Objects on Panel. 11 feet,