

Look Inside Sculpture

BIENNIAL

GRADE LEVEL

6 - 8

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Inspired by artists Baxter Koziol and Nick Sevigney create a relief sculpture that morphs an everyday object with nature to form a supernatural form.

GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Process of transforming a 2D sketch into a 3D form
- Building of a relief sculpture using a variety of recycled materials

ARTISTS

[Nick Sevigney | Wells, ME](#)

Combining forms and textures for the natural world and recycled trash these elements create a timelessness to the artists mixed media ceramics.

[Baxter Koziol | Portland, ME](#)

Hybridizing function, style, and traditional textiles, Koziol creates apparel that becomes an extension of the human form. Activated by the body.

INTRODUCTION

The 2020 edition of the CMCA Biennial features the work of 34 artists from 17 Maine communities. The selected artists were chosen from a pool of more than 500 individual submissions by jurors Nina Johnson-Milewski, owner, founder, and director of Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL, and Kate McNamara, an independent curator and educator based in Providence, RI.

In a statement by the jurors, Johnson-Milewski writes, "I hope this exhibition will reflect the importance of harnessing the creative spirit, particularly in times of disconnection, isolation, and confusion." McNamara adds, "With over 500 submissions the process of looking through the Biennial entries offered us an opportunity to view an incredibly diverse range of art practices reflected in the contemporary art field. I am thrilled with our final selection of work, which reflects some of the hopefulness and re-imagining this particular and historic moment in time calls for."

LESSON

Experience the Center for Maine Contemporary Art's 2020 Biennial exhibit using our Virtual Tours. Create a relief sculpture that morphs an everyday object with a piece of nature to form a supernatural form. Incorporate elements from artists Baxter Koziol and Nick Sevigney, whose works emphasize the use of recycled material.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Explain the importance of viewing: what is the job of the artist versus the job of the viewer? Engage your students in a conversation through observation of the work. What do you see when you look at this? What makes these items familiar? How are they obscure? What type of materials did the artist use to create this artwork? When do you think this work was made?

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Share your artwork and process with family and friends, educate others about contemporary Maine artists, and share with us @cmcanow!

MAINE LEARNING RESULTS

A2 | Elements & Principals
A3 | Media, Tools, Techniques, and Processes
B1 | Media Skills
B2 | Composition Skills
B3 | Making Meaning
C1 | Application of Creative Process
D1 | Aesthetics and Criticism
E5 | Arts and Other Disciplines

VOCABULARY

Sculpture: 3D visual art making process

Abstract: a form of artistic response to a physical reality, simplified marks to complex physical information

Relief: sculptural technique where elements remain attached to a solid background

Form: 3D enclosed shape

Trompe L'oeil: technique used to create the illusion of real objects

Relic: object surviving from an earlier time

Background: area behind the focal point

MATERIALS

- White drawing paper
- Tagboard or other sturdy backing
- Pencil
- Tissue paper
- Fabric scraps
- Liquid glue
- Scissors
- play doh, polymer clay, or air dry clay
- Pipe cleaners, wire, or recycled cable material



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Draw a series of sketches that show the transformation of a common object (shirt or cup) into an object in nature (bug or plant). Challenge yourself to complete this transformation in 5-6 drawings.

STEP 2

Select one of the morphed drawings to replicate in **relief form**. Begin by molding and forming the larger areas from your clay, attaching it to the base with glue. Vary the amount that sticks up from the backing.

STEP 3

Referencing your sketch, use additional materials to construct the details and features specific to your natural object (antenna, leaves, or maybe tentacles). Build these features upward and outward from the backing.

STEP 4

Use the fabrics and tissue paper to dress and create a patchwork of texture onto your relief. Use these materials to draw attention to color which will help distinguish the objects from one another and to emphasize a timelessness to the **relic**.

STEP 5

Optional: cover your **background** with a solid color that will contrast with your object.



Baxter Koziol

The Sequel Suit - The Sopranos (1999) Deep Blue Sea (1999) Adaptation (2002) Nightflyers (1987), 2019, used clothes, yarn, 55 x 46"
Survival Blanket 1, 2020, used clothes, yarn, and survival gear, 85 x 60"

Nick Sevigny

Dystopian Water Purifier, 2018, clay and mixed media, 12 x 19 x 8"
Bamboozah, 2019, clay and mixed media

