2018 Biennial Collage Puzzle

INTRODUCTION
Taking place in the fall of even-numbered years, the CMCA Biennial is an open, statewide juried exhibition featuring work in all mediums produced in the past two years. A snapshot of Maine’s vibrant contemporary art scene, the CMCA Biennial dates back to 1978 and is the longest-running juried competition in the state. This year’s iteration includes works by 43 artists representing 33 communities across Maine.

In reviewing the 659 submissions received, jurors Kate Green and Robin K. Williams remarked that the work “evidenced the breadth of contemporary practices flourishing across the state, while also reflecting elements that make Maine unique: the sea, the wilderness, craft.”

LESSON
Take a virtual look at our 2018 Biennial on our website cmcanow.org/virtual-tours/. Experimenting with paint as a base medium young learners see how contemporary artists expand and stretch the form in a variety of ways. Through collage and other mixed media techniques create a puzzle style artwork.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS
What are the pieces that make up this artwork? Does this artwork tell a story? What materials were used to create this work? How did the artists begin this painting? What is possible in painting that isn’t possible in other mediums? Compare and contrast the work of Michael Winkler and Kathy Weinberg. What is important in both works? How do they stand out from one another? Could they be placed together, or should they stay apart?

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK
Create your own gallery space for hanging your artwork at home, this can be in your bedroom, on the fridge, or in the windows. Add to your collection overtime creating a larger puzzle composition containing your own artwork.
CMCA Temporality | Process of Time

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Inspired by just a few of the artists featured in our 2018 Biennial, students look at painter’s whose work pushes the medium in multiple forms.

VOCABULARY
Overlap placing marks onto one another, to layer
Composition
Space area around or between components of a piece
Shape a flat enclosed area formed by line(s)
Texture how a surface feels
Outline drawing/sketch restricted to line without

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1
Students trace 7 shapes onto colored paper, choosing a variety of sizes. Once all shapes are cut out begin arranging them onto the square paper. Think about whether your want your work to look “busy” or “calm” (e.g. all shapes overlapping vs. spread out)

STEP 2
Create a puzzle composition and glue to the paper. Using markers outline the shapes and add detailed drawing to each of the shapes.

STEP 3
Create a title for the work and determine the orientation, feel free to add more cut out shapes. To seal your work cover in a thin layer of glue-water mixture. For pieces that hang off of the work, crop using scissors or paper cutter.

TEACHING TIPS:
- For older age groups challenge artists to experiment with different shades and tones in their color palettes. Introducing oil pastels to give dimension to the puzzle shapes.