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 int he 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 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 styled 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 of your work.
**STEP 1**
Create a drawing in the style of Michael Winkler – your names, a word, a sentence, etc.

**STEP 2**
Draw your lines first and then paint around them. Trace the lines using the drawing materials.

**STEP 3**
Create a copy of this work and deconstruct the pieces. Begin to collage these pieces together on a large format paper. Create a game – gluing one piece at a time. Trace carefully around the new letters.

**STEP 4**
Title and sign artworks. Experiment with what the works look like from different orientations, snap a photo of each to compare and contrast.

**TEACHING TIPS:**
- Opting out of group work; have students collage their copy onto their original creating an additional abstracted layer and dimension to the artwork.

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**VOCABULARY**

Collage composition of materials and objects pasted onto a surface, unified by lines and colors
Overlap placing marks onto one another, to layer
Composition a combination of artistic elements to form a whole
Perspective relationship of elements on a flat surface
Shape a flat enclosed area formed by line(s)
Negative Space area between objects
Positive Space the area that makes up the object
Outline drawing/sketch restricted to line without Orientation position of something, horizontal or vertical

**MATERIALS**
- Rectangular paper
- Large format white paper
- Pencils
- Highlighters / neon markers
- Rulers
- Markers
- Paint - optional