



Exploration & Collaborative Approach

Lesson Plan by Mariah Stahike, Art Teacher, T.J. Walker Middle School
Time to Complete: 5–6 Days
Big Idea: **Interpersonal Relationships and Skills**

In this lesson, students will explore the artwork of Albert and Louise Zahn, two artists who resided in Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin, for a large portion of their lives. These two artists collaborated to create several art pieces together. As we learn about these artists, students will explore the following topics:

- How can we describe this style of art?
- What is the process of art making, and how can it be a group effort?
- What color schemes or other important elements of art are used within the pieces?
- What themes are represented within the artwork?
- How can we create an art piece that has a 3-D element?

These topics will help drive a collaborative piece that students can create with another peer or a larger group of students. Whether painting found objects in our natural world or creating a sculpture from other materials of choice, students will explore the use of color schemes from nature and natural textures from the world around them, such as wood and stone, in order to create a sculptural work of art that can be made with 2-D and 3-D aspects considered.

Objectives

- Students will observe and analyze the artwork of Albert and Louise Zahn.
- Students will develop an idea for a collaborative piece that can be completed with a peer or larger group of students.
- Students will create a piece of artwork that has a sculptural and painted element included with color schemes and paint choices derived from natural observations.
- Students will portray imagery from their own natural environment in a 3-D way.

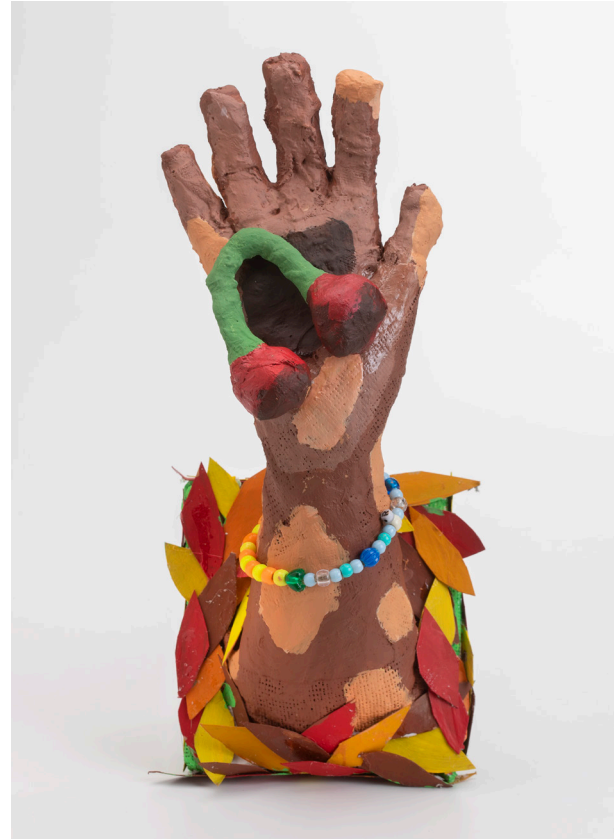
National Standard Connection

Responding: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Create: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Create: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Create: Refine and create artistic work.



Rose Haucke and Brie Flanigan (Teacher Fellowship Program, T.J. Walker Middle School, Sturgeon Bay), *A Hand that Grasps the Cherries*, 2022; wood, paper, plaster, beads, glue, string, and paint.

Suggested Grade Level: 6–8

Discuss

1. Observing, Perceiving, and Analyzing

When looking at the work of Albert and Louise Zahn:

- What color schemes do you see?
- What forms do you see?
- How is the art made?
- What is the subject matter?
- What do you think inspired the Zahns?

2. Creating

- How can we create a 3-D piece of artwork inspired by Albert and Louise Zahn?
- How can we create a piece of art with a collaborative approach?
- Using plaster, newspaper, metal, and wire, how will your group work together to create a sculptural piece of artwork? What other materials will be needed to complete your artwork?

Create

Day 1: Introduction to Artwork of Albert and Louise Zahn and Group Brainstorming

- Students will observe the artwork from the slideshow and analyze what they see within the art focusing on the discussion questions.
- Students will choose a partner or group to work with; they will then develop a plan and sketch.

Day 2: Art Making—Create an Armature for the Sculpture

- Instructor will give a demonstration on how to create an armature that is attached to a base using a wooden or foam base and building up the structure of the sculpture with newspaper and masking tape.
- Materials available will be wooden blocks, foam, newspaper, tape, wire, or materials students have brought to work with, such as twigs, metal cans, etc.

Days 3, 4 & 5: Art Making—Painting and Adding Details to the Sculpture

- Instructor will give a demonstration on how to use plaster strips to solidify their sculptures, wrapping plaster strips around their armature after dipping them in water. Students can begin this step if they have time.
- Students will use these work periods in order to finish a layer of plaster strips around the entire piece first.
- Secondly, they will begin painting their pieces after the plaster has dried.
- Students will then adhere any details or added material such as buttons or other pieces of their sculpture using wire, hot glue, or E6000 super glue.

Day 6: Share Artwork and Reflect on Their Pieces through Written Statements

- Students will write artist statements and share their artwork with their peers. The artist statements can also be shared with the class during this time.

Materials

- Note-taking template: notes about the artist/planning sheet
- Artist statement worksheet: artist statement guide
- Found objects of student choice inspired by the artists (Examples: wooden frames, stone, wood, fabric, etc.)
- Found objects from the natural world/home (Examples: bark, stone, shells, fabric, yarn, etc.)
- Plaster of Paris strips
- Newspaper
- Masking tape

Vocabulary

- Sculpture and Assemblage
- Armature
- Collaborative Art
- Color Schemes—Derived from Nature
- Form



Albert Zahn, untitled, c. 1924–c. 1934; wood, paint, metal, and varnish; 41¼ x 10 x 21¼ in., John Michael Kohler Arts Center Collection, gift of Kohler Foundation Inc.

- Materials for adhering or constructing:
 - Thicker gauge wire
 - Foam to use as a base or assorted wooden block sizes
 - E6000 super glue
 - Hot glue guns and hot glue sticks
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes for acrylic
- Palettes or plates