

OUT OF SIGHT!

ART OF THE SENSES

Pre-visit Activity, Grades 6–12

Emotions and Scent

Out of Sight! Art of the Senses brings together contemporary works of art that actively engage with how our bodies meet the wider world through the five basic senses. In this exercise, students will explore how the brain associates smells with memories and emotions.



Activity



Divide the students into small groups and assign each group an emotion. Examples may include: joy, happiness, surprise, anger, disgust, fear, sadness, contentment, anticipation, etc.

Ask each group to create a list of smells that remind them of that emotion. It may remind them of a certain food or a specific place. Encourage them to think of why that particular scent came to mind with that emotion.

Once the students have created their lists, have each group present to the rest of the class. While the students are sharing, they should write down any of the scents that repeat or are similar. This can lead to a discussion about why certain smells have collective connections to our emotions.

Additional Activities

The students can categorize those lists into a Venn diagram to demonstrate what emotions had overlapping scents.

(Math connection: Data analysis and probability)

Add in a category of a visual art element (such as color or texture) to connect with each emotion.

(Visual Art connection: Relating artistic ideas with personal meaning and external context)

Ask the students to find a song that corresponds with their assigned emotion.

They should note the tone, the lyrics, and the rhythm, and think of how those aspects of the song can help create a sense of emotion.

(Music connection: Influence of tempo and rhythmic unit in musical emotion)

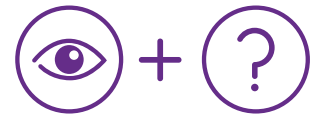
Nam June Paik (South Korean, 1932–2006). Installation view of *Piano Piece*, 1993. Closed-circuit video sculpture, 120 x 84 x 48 inches (304.8 x 213.4 x 121.9 cm). Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Sarah Norton Goodyear Fund, 1993 (1993:9a-ii). © 1993 Nam June Paik.



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Post-visit Activity, Grades 6–12

Ask the students if any of the works surprised them and why. Do they think it is a good idea to introduce different senses other than sight in an artwork? Why or why not?



Have the students create works of art inspired by what they saw on their guided tour. Perhaps they can make works of art that one can touch, smell, hear, and taste!

Have the students look for found materials that they can use to make works of art (such as cardboard, beads, shoeboxes, feathers, Legos, straw, etc.).



Create a “larger-than-life” sculpture inspired by Robert Therrien.

Construct a work of art that invites the viewer to exit from one place to enter a new one, inspired by Felix Gonzalez-Torres.

Create a work of art that protrudes from the wall and uses lighting to create shadows, inspired by Robert Irwin.

Inspired by Takashi Murakami, invite your students to construct a short animation. Using whatever technology is available, use this artist as inspiration and combine the playful and the menacing nature of his works.



Collaborate with the music teacher at your school and create a work of art that introduces sound to the viewer.



If you have a Family and Consumer Science class, collaborate to create edible art! Yum!

Robert Therrien (American, born 1947). Installation view of *No title (folding table and chairs, beige)*, 2006. Paint, metal, and fabric; table: 96 x 110 x 110 inches (243.8 x 279.4 x 279.4 cm); four chairs: 104 x 64 x 72 inches (264.2 x 162.6 x 182.9 cm) each, unfolded. Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Sarah Norton Goodyear Fund, 2007 (2007:1a-e).

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