Question the Body



GRADE LEVEL

6-8

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Inspired by the art making process in Dorney's featured work and additional project *Home Poems*, create an abstract redaction poem using an assemblage technique.

GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Transformation of body of writing to art form
- Development of a simple poem unique to the maker
- Combining assemblage technique to redaction poetry

ARTIST

Erin Dorney | Lovell, ME Blending poetry and visual arts, Dorney's work takes shape on screen, encased, or installed into intimate spaces.

Her featured work was developed during a residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in

INTRODUCTION

QUESTION THE BODY is a collection of photographs and time-lapse videos where gathered natural objects obscure pages from "The Question and Answer Book About The Human Body" by Ann McGovern (Random House, 1965). Through recorded erasure/redaction, each poem is built by the disembodied hands of the artist. The unobscured text reveals inquiries into physical form, preference, expression, and function.

By emphasizing process over product, *QUESTION THE BODY* blurs the boundaries between writing, visual art, appropriation, performance, and assemblage. Works in this series were created during a residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in Lovell, Maine. All natural objects were collected from the grounds of the residency during the artist's weeklong stay in 2019.

LESSON

Take a look at the On Screen artwork of Erin Dorney found on our website at https://cmcanow.org/event/screen-dorney-question-the-body/. Inspired by the art making process in Dorney's featured work and additional project *Home Poems*, create an abstract redaction poem using an assemblage technique. Additional poetry projects and resources can be viewed at erindorney.com.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What is the context of this written work? What words stand out to describe the original context of the label? How can I visually frame the text in an appealing formation? What is assemblage?

*Abstract poems do not have to make sense! They can be a collective of words or ideas that <u>sound</u> good together or <u>look</u> visually pleasing.

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Build a collection of your own abstract poems and share them with family and friends, teach your siblings or parents the process and share what you've created with us @cmcanow.

CMCA Question the Body

VOCABULARY

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

Redaction Poem: repurposing a work of writing using the editing technique of blacking out text to transform original visual form and meaning

Negative Space: area in between objects, texts

Emphasis: focal point in a visual artwork

Assemblage: a relief style technique of collage where the objects used to abstract are three dimensional

MATERIALS

- Recycled food containers
- Labels
- Magazines
- Found objects something you can grab a handful amount
- Tape optional
- Marker optional





INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Collect a handful of labels and writings you find around the house. These may take the form of a pasta box, advertisement, or recycled handout.

STEP 2

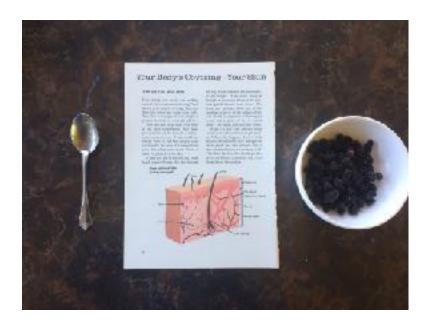
Read closely the labels contents thoroughly understanding the objective. Read for the second time editing out as many words possible creating a concise version of the label. Apply your found objects to cover up the unnecessary text emphasizing the remaining words.

STEP 3

Arrange your found objects in a visually pleasing formation. It may be that only one word stands out to describe the contents that the label is trying to sell. *How will you emphasize this word(s) clearly?*

TIPS & TRICKS:

- Similar to the work of Erin Dorney, create a natural dye or paint to obscure the original text
- Challenge yourself to obscure old notes or writing that you created, read and edit using this visual assemblage technique.







Erin Dorney

Top Left: Question the Body, 2019 Recycled paper and berries On Screen 6:53

Middle Left: Question the Body, 2019 Recycled paper and berries On Screen 6:53

Bottom Left: Home Poems, 2020 Photograph, recycled cardboard

