



Academic Resource for Teachers & Students

RICHARD SERRA: PRINTS

06.10.17 - 08.20.17

6-8



RICHARD SERRA
PROMENADE NOTEBOOK DRAWING V
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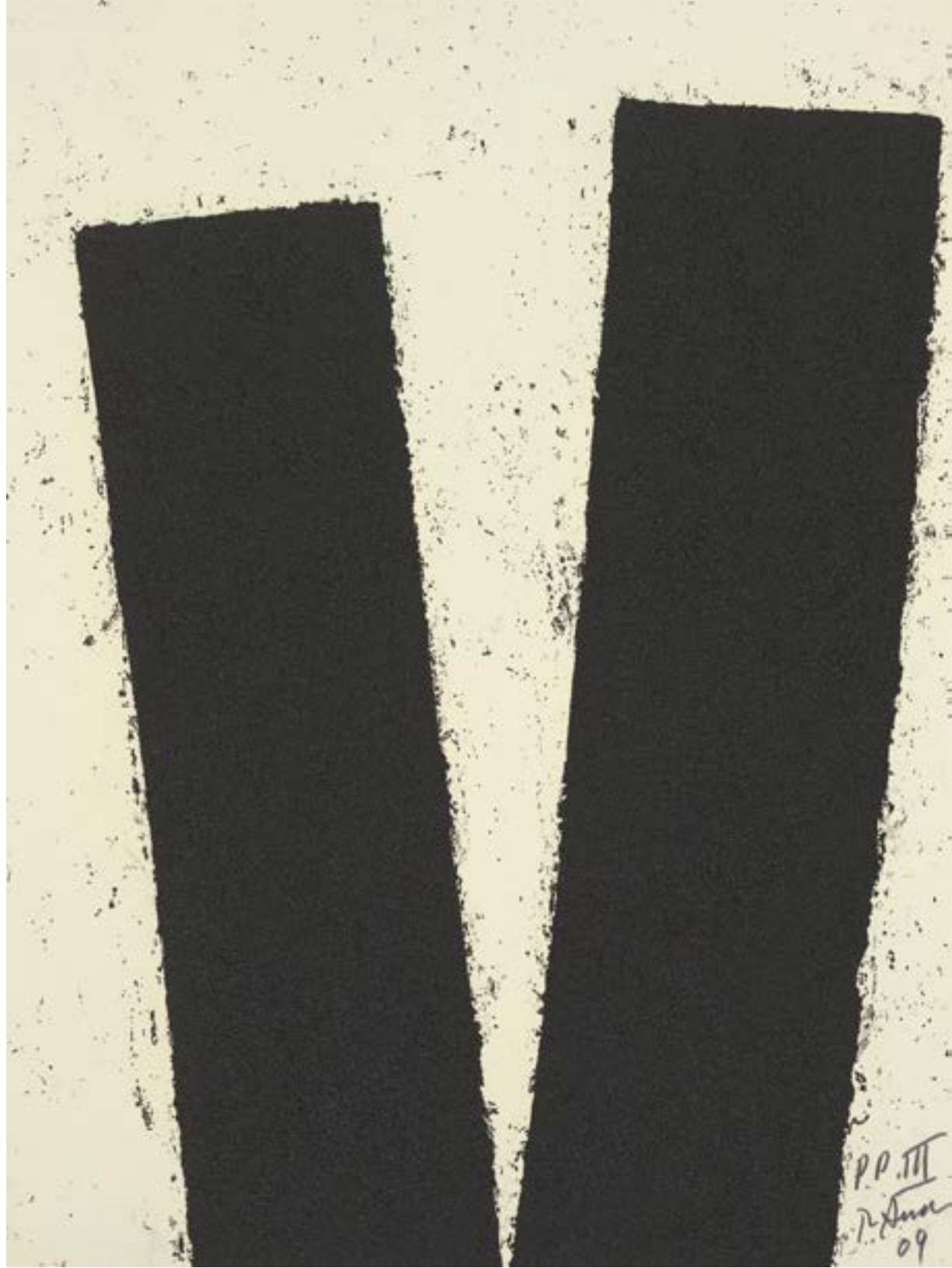


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lesson overview

lesson plan

Designed to extend and enhance the learning experience of our exhibits while linking to core curriculum subject matter.

lesson objectives

- To discuss controversial site-specific public artwork and debate about the rights of the artists.
- To use Richard Serra's process (drawing, model, installation) to create a public art installation using minimal materials.

core curriculum tie-ins

Sixth through Eighth Grades: Visual Arts, Language Art and Social Studies.

lesson overview

On the A.R.T.S. tour, students will learn about the work of Richard Serra. Then students will study a controversial site-specific sculpture created by the artist. With this information, students will create their own sculpture using simple materials.

length of class

One to three class sessions.

supplies

- Sketch Paper.
- Pencils.
- Roll of Brown Craft Paper.
- String.
- Packing Tape
- Scissors.

core curriculum tie-ins

6th grade Visual Art

Standard 6.V.CO.2:

Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding by analyzing how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.

Standard 6.V.CR.5:

Design or redesign objects, places, or systems that meet the identified needs of diverse users.

7th grade Language Arts

Reading: Literature Standard 1

Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

8th grade Social Studies

Standard 6

Students will understand the structure and function of the United States government established by the Constitution.

Objective 4

Analyze the rights, liberties, and responsibilities of citizens.

- a) Identify the responsibilities of citizenship to secure liberties; e.g., vote, perform jury duty, obey laws.
- b) Examine the Bill of Rights and its specific guarantees.

ABOUT

Richard Serra: Prints

Richard Serra is well known for his monumental steel sculptures which arc and spiral, altering a viewer's experience of space as they move around them. In *Richard Serra: Prints*, the Kimball Art Center offers a fresh look at this artist's practice. Moving back and forth between these two mediums, he explores the complex relationship between his large-scale sculpture, the body and surrounding space. His pared-down black and white prints are highly evocative of this physical experience and, with new approaches to traditional techniques, represent 45 years of compelling experimentation in the medium of printmaking. This exhibition is drawn from the collections of the Jordan D. Schnitzer Family Foundation.



lesson plan

1. Present the controversy over *Tilted Arc*.

In 1981, artist Richard Serra installed his sculpture *Tilted Arc*, in Federal Plaza in New York City commissioned by the Arts-in-Architecture program of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). *Tilted Arc* is a curving wall of raw steel, 120 feet long and 12 feet high and cost \$175,000. The sculpture was controversial as soon as it was built. The GSA decided to have a public hearing to decide the fate of the sculpture.

2. Hold a public hearing in class. Have students choose one of the following topics and share their opinions using evidence from the resources below. Possible topics to discuss: potential removal costs, changing

the sculpture's location, the rights of the artist Richard Serra, the inconvenience of the sculpture's placement, the value of sculpture, destruction of artwork, etc. Ask students who they think should make the final decision: the government, the artist or the public? On March 15, 1989, *Tilted Arc* was cut into three pieces, and removed from Federal Plaza.

3. Discuss site-specific artwork and emphasize that it is created only for one specific place. How would the sculptures meaning change if it was moved?

4. Now, ask students to collectively brainstorm a site-specific sculpture for their school. Tell students they will be using

simple materials to create a very minimal sculpture (brown craft paper from a roll, string scissors and tape). This sculpture will be a simple site-specific shape, like Serra's. It should be created with the students use of the space in mind.

5. Using Richard Serra's Process (starting with drawings and then building an installation) students can form 3 groups, find a space and create a sketch of their ideas. Student should revise the drawings before constructing the sculpture.

6. Leave a comment box to receive feedback from other students outside of the class.

vocabulary

Controversy – A controversy is an argument that involves many people who strongly disagree about something.

Installation – Installation art is an artistic genre of three-dimensional works that often are site-specific and designed to transform the perception of a space.

Jury – A jury is a body of people (typically twelve in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court.

Process – The artistic process is a general guideline for steps creating artwork.

Public – Public art is art in any media that has been planned and executed with the intention of being staged in the physical public domain, usually outside and accessible to all.

Rights – Rights are legal, social, or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement; that is, rights are the fundamental normative rules about what is allowed of people or owed to people, according to some legal system, social convention, or ethical theory.

Site Specific– Site-specific art is artwork created to exist in a certain place. Typically, the artist takes the location into account while planning and creating the artwork.

resources

Rights of the Artist:

http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/martin/art_law/esworthy.htm

<http://www.arsny.com>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/house-bill/2690>

Site Specific Artwork:

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/movement/site-specific-art-environmental-art>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/site-specific>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/14/fearless-girl->

[statue-women-new-york-bull](#)

Richard Serra:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/flashpoints/visualarts/tiltedarc_a.html

<https://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/multimedia/series/AEMicrosites/richard-serra#For%20the%20Educator>

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-serra-richard.htm>

<https://www.sfmoma.org/watch/installation-richard-serras-sculpture-sequence/>

