



**eva**

**ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS**

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

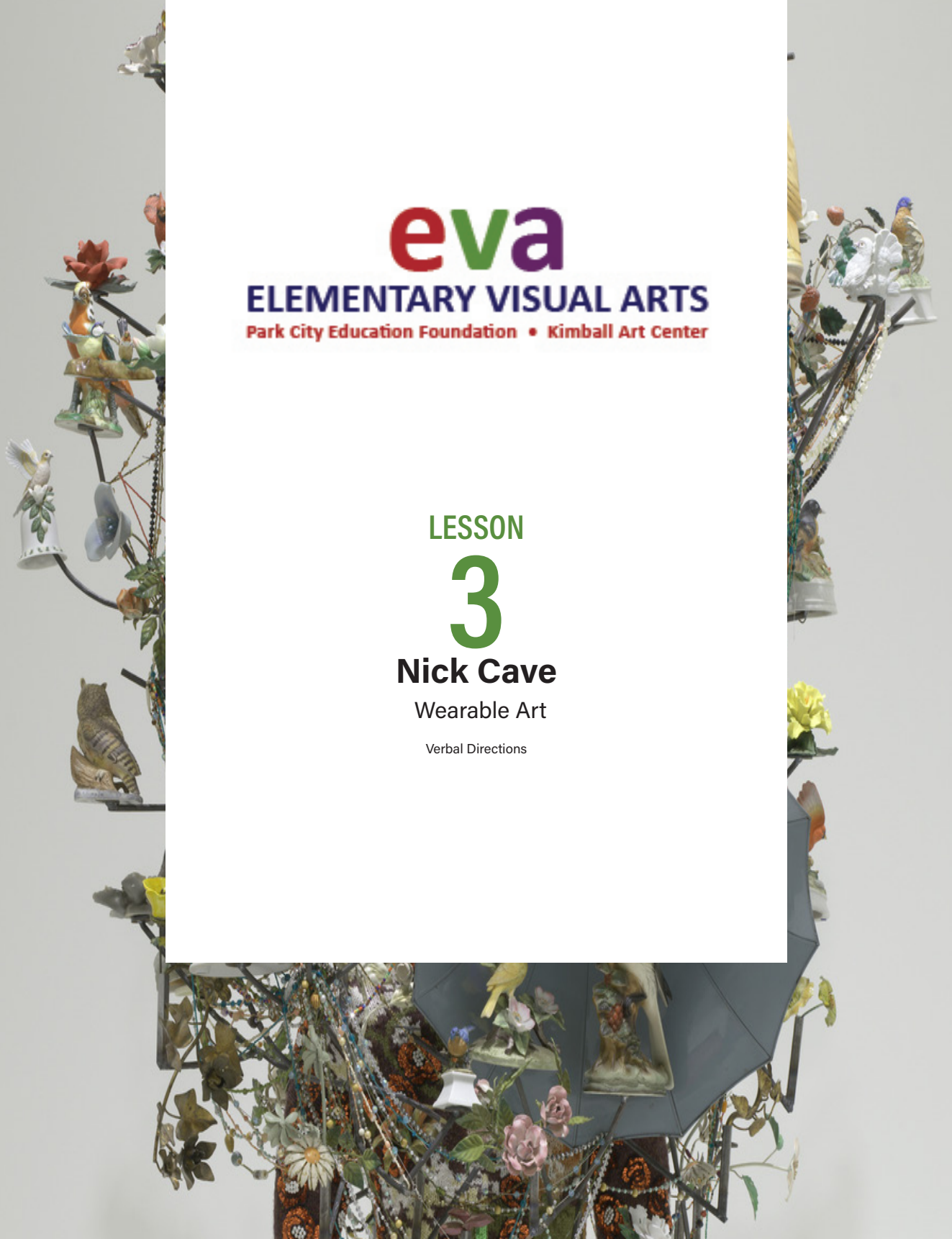
LESSON

**3**

**Nick Cave**

Wearable Art

Verbal Directions



## LESSON OVERVIEW

Nick Cave (born 1959) an artist from Fulton, Missouri, is known for his “Soundsuits”, wearable art that blends fashion and sculpture. Student will learn about Cave’s process, his use of materials and will design their own soundsuits on paper with patterns and texture.

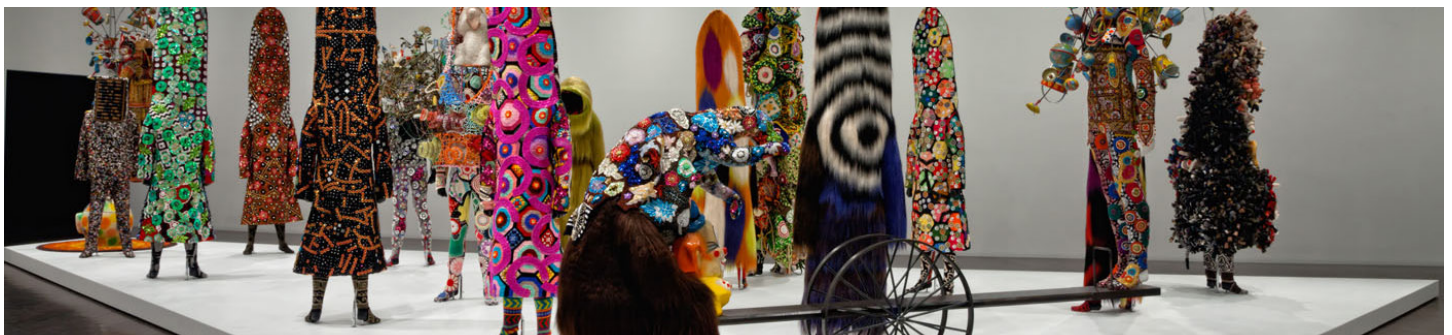
### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Nick Cave and his artwork.
- Discuss wearable and performance art.
- Learn about the process of designing a costume.
- Create a design.

### NICK CAVE



Nick Cave (born 1959) is from Fulton, Missouri. He creates “Soundsuits”; wearable art blending fashion and sculpture. Growing up he learned how to sew by repairing hand-me-downs from his older siblings. At the beginning of his career, he worked professionally as a fashion designer. The idea of a soundsuit came from a want to create an armor or costume to hide the body, race, gender, and class, allowing viewers to look at the wearer without bias. Cave performs in the sculptures himself, dancing to activate them as costumes and as musical instruments. He is influenced by African art traditions, armor, ceremonial dress, couture fashion, and designed textiles. Cave creates most of his pieces in a workshop with several assistants. Materials used are common and include dyed human hair, plastic buttons, beads, wire, sequins, and feathers found at flea markets and thrift store and layered to create texture and pattern. Cave has produced over 500 soundsuits. [Learn More.](#)



### SUPPLIES

- Images Nick Cave’s Soundsuits
- Large Bristol paper (11X17)
- Colored construction paper
- Collage materials such as magazines, newspapers, old stamps, postcards, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Textured materials such as beads, buttons, feathers, etc.

## LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce students to the life and work of Nick Cave. Talk about wearable art and fashion design as art.
  - What do you think of these - Are these costumes or are they Art?
  - Take a closer look at the materials and describe them. What do the materials make you think of? Where do you think the artist finds them?
  - How are the elements put together? How do you think this was made?
2. Nick Cave talks about his 'Sound suits' as a type of armor or protection. Have a discussion with students about what they wear that makes them feel safe and shielded. Now, show the video work by Nick Cave and discuss the sound element of the suits. Ask:
  - Why is movement important with this art?
  - What changes when the suits are in motion?
3. To get started creating a design for a sound suit. Pass out print-outs with a basic human silhouette. Instruct students to sketch first an overall shape of their 'suit.' Ask students to consider a pattern or design for the surface and texture of the wearable art piece.
4. Once the design is ready pass out materials (beads, buttons, feathers fur, bedazzle, etc.). Using glue students can attach the material to their drawing.
5. Ask students to share the decisions in their design and to reflect on the placement of the materials. Have a conversation about how one might feel in their costume and the idea behind their creations.

EVA + :

- Create something that can be worn and makes sound.
- Create a piece of wearable art using a basic accessory like a party hat, belt, cuff, etc. and building off of it with found objects.
- Using markers create a more intricate and imaginative design for a wearable art piece.





**KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:  
Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements  
(5th grade).**

VA:Cr1.1.5a:

Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making.

VA:Cr3.1.5a:

Create artist statements using art vocabulary to describe personal choices in artmaking.

VA:Cr2.1.5a:

Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice



**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/15/t-magazine/nick-cave-artist.html>
- <https://art21.org/artist/nick-cave>
- <http://www.artnet.com/artists/nick-cave/>
- <https://nickcaveart.com/Main/Intro.html>
- <https://publicdelivery.org/nick-cave-soundsuits/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpNcmh3rxko>

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