Title
Looking at the Past and Present from Multiple Perspectives:
An Introduction to the Work of David Claerbout

Estimated Time for Completion of Lesson
1 class period

Concept/Main Idea of Lesson
Students will be introduced to the work of artist David Claerbout. Using photography and video, Claerbout explores the themes of time and perspective.

Intended Grade Levels
Grades 9-12

Infusion/Subject Areas
Visual Arts
Social Studies

Curriculum Standards

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
VISUAL ARTS
VA.912.C.1.2: Use critical-thinking skills for various contexts to develop, refine, and reflect on an artistic theme.
VA.912.C.3.1: Use descriptive terms and varied approaches in art analysis to explain the meaning or purpose of an artwork.

SOCIAL STUDIES
SS.912.H.1.2: Describe how historical events, social context, and culture impact forms, techniques, and purposes of works in the arts, including the relationship between a government and its citizens.

National Standards for Arts Education
Visual Arts Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

Visual Arts Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

Visual Arts Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

National Council for the Social Studies
Time, Continuity, and Change

People, Places, and Environments

Global Connections

Common Core
VA.912.C.2.2: Assess the works of others, using established or derived criteria, to support conclusions and judgments about artistic progress.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.5: Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Instructional Objective
The student will:
- become familiar with the work of artist David Claerbout;
- explain how Claerbout explores the themes of time and perspective in his work;
- develop visual critical analysis skills;
- develop and practice note-taking.

Learning Activities Sequence
Attention-Getter (Critical Visual Analysis): Access the PowerPoint presentation and advance to slide 2 ("What's happening in this picture?"). Allow students 1 minute to view and then respond in whole-class format. Repeat the process with slide 2 ("Let's take a closer look…   what's going on?") and slide 3 ("Even closer…"). Ask students to consider how angle and perspective impacted their perceptions of the work as a viewer.

Learning Activity 1 (Video): Access the video *Sections of a Happy Moment* (2007) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2NVu8S7c7U), having previously selected a 5-minute section of the video to show to students. Before showing the clip, explain to students that the complete work is a 25-minute video that loops repeatedly. The artist, David Claerbout, took thousands of photos of this event and included 180 of them in the video. It focuses on a moment in time in the life of a Chinese family in their courtyard. As the group of people watch the ball in mid-air, this moment in time is analyzed from a multitude of different angles and perspectives.

Learning Activity 2 (Guided Note-Taking): Progress through slides 6-20, allowing students to take notes about Claerbout's biography, artistic style, and themes represented in his work. The Notes View of the slides include additional information on each of the works.

Closure: Access the last two slides of the PPT, introducing first the title of the work *The Quiet Shore* (2011), and then advancing to the slide containing three stills from the 36-minute video installation. Allow students to view each of the three stills, approximately 1 minute per still, asking them to write down any ideas, adjectives, or thoughts that some to mind as they view. Facilitate a wrap-up discussion by asking for volunteers to share their thoughts, asking additional questions such as:

- The artist set this work on the coastline of Brittany, France, famously known for having the strongest tides in Europe. How does this knowledge influence your perception of the work?

- How might *The Quiet Shore* (2011) evoke different reactions if it had been shot in color versus black-and-white film?

- How do you think each of the people shown in the three stills interacted with the beach environment? As a viewer, how do these different perspectives and viewpoints change your perception of the work?

Evaluation

Informally assess students' engagement and comprehension of the material by noting level of participation, note-taking, and involvement in discussions.

Optional Extension Activities

Invite students to view the complete 25 minutes of the work, *Sections of a Happy Moment* (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2NVu8S7c7U). Have them take notes as they view, noting how their interpretation of the event changes as the perspective and angles change throughout the video.

Show the Claerbout's 12-minute video *Travel* (http://davidclaerbout.com/filter/work/Travel-1996-2013). Claerbout was inspired to create this piece based on relaxation music he had heard. Ask students to consider how this visual work might induce relaxation.

Materials and Resources
- Paper and pencil/pen
- Computer with MS PowerPoint and Internet connection
- PPT: *Day 1.Shifting Between Past and Present*
- Projection screen and projector
- External speakers

Internet Links

http://davidclaerbout.com/

http://www.nca-g.com/artist/david_claerbout/

http://www.artnet.com/galleries/sean-kelly-gallery/artist-david-claerbout/

References

Claerbout, D. (2017). *David Claerbout*. Retrieved from: http://davidclaerbout.com.

Cooper, A. (2014). *David Claerbout Joins Sean Kelly Stable*. Retrieved from:
http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2014/06/03/david-claerbout-joins-sean-kelly-stable/.

WideWalls. (2017). *David Claerbout.* Retrieved from:
http://www.widewalls.ch/artist/david-claerbout/artworks.

Woodward, R.B. (2016). David Claerbout, LIGHT/WORK @Sean Kelly. *Collector Daily.*
Retrieved from: https://collectordaily.com/david-claerbout-lightwork-sean-kelly/.