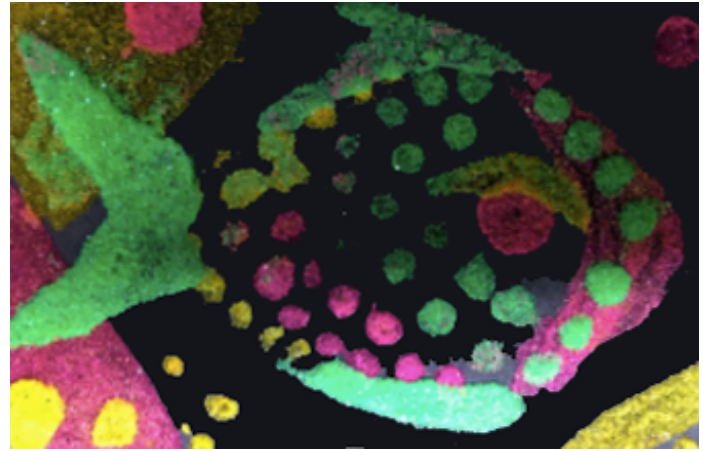


Sand Stories Painting Inspired by Katie Creyts

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA
EDUCATORS

Materials

- White glue, either in squeeze bottles or poured into tubs with qtips or brushes in them
- Colored sand
- Trays for sand
- Plastic spoons for sand
- Thick paper
- Example of Katie Creyts' work (included in this lesson)
- Paper and pencil for planning
- Optional: stories that students are learning about or writing themselves



Student example

Source: Museum of Northwest Art

Description

Based on the work of Katie Creyts and her 2018 Wilderland show at MoNA, students will make a sand painting that combines different shapes to make an image that tells a story or a scene from a story. They will learn to carefully use glue to attach the colored sand to their composition.

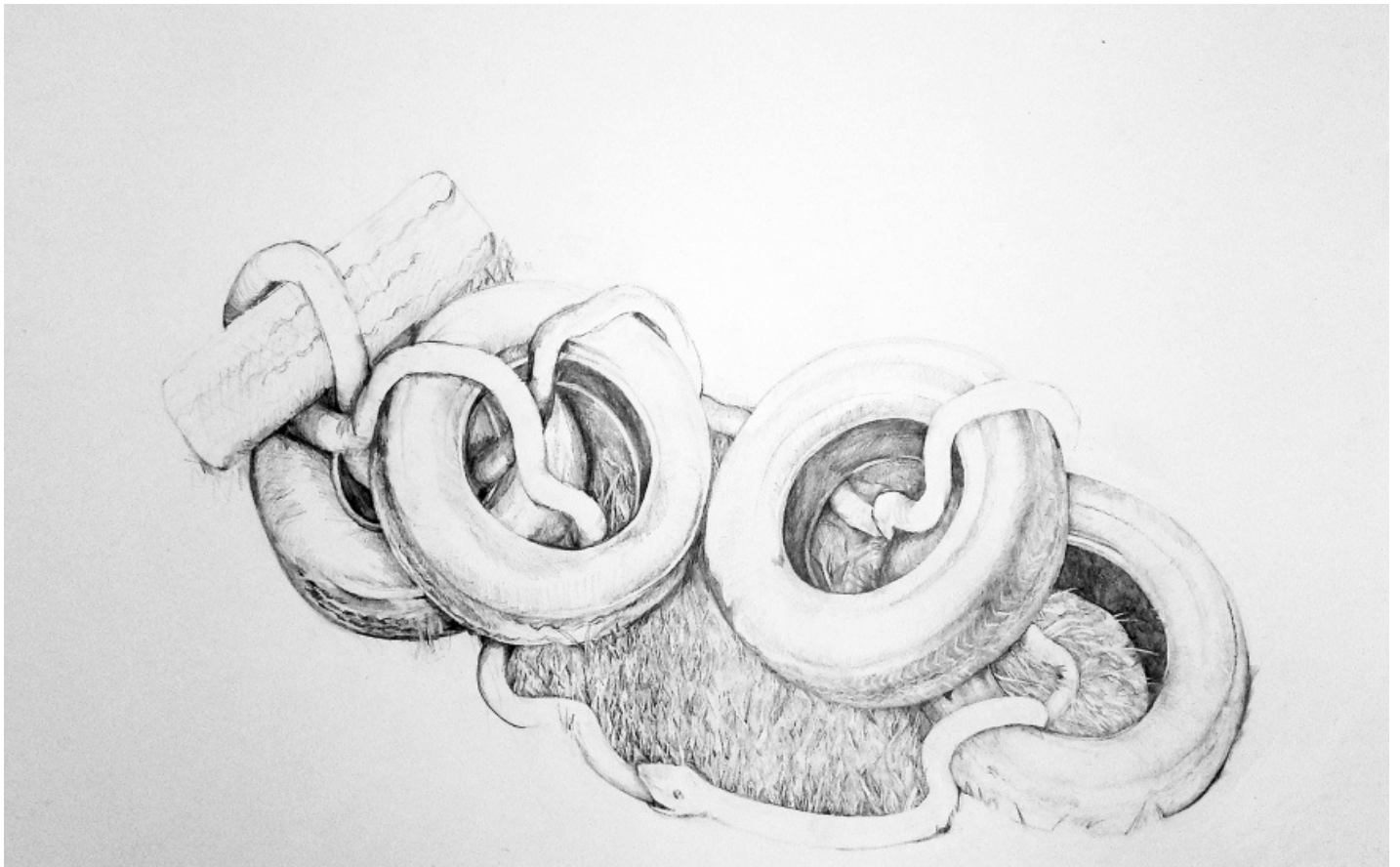
Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Shape
- ✓ Sand painting
- ✓ Stories



Instructions

- 1) Introduce the artistic concept of **shape**.
- 2) Explore the idea of **stories**. You can look at Katie Creyts' work and see what stories the students come up with based on the image below, or you might use stories the students are already studying or writing. Students can pick a scene or create the entire story in their work, and then plan out their composition with pencil on paper.
- 3) Students apply glue in a small area using the squeeze bottles or by dipping brushes/qtips into the trays of glue.
- 4) They can then spoon sand on the glue, one color at a time. They can shake the excess sand back into the tray.
- 5) They can repeat this process as many times as they like, adding new areas of glue before each color of sand.



Katie Creyts, Never Tire, 2015, graphite drawing on paper, 32" x 42."
Image courtesy of the artist, Image source: MoNA's Website

More on Creyts' work from monamuseum.org

The scenes that Creyts creates are often a point departure from a familiar narrative that encourage a new way of thinking about a story. Take "Never Tire" for example: the viewer may recognize that the snake eating its own tail is the ancient symbol of the orobouros, which represented the infinite cycle of life and death in nature. However, the snake is wrapped around tires that appear to be abandoned. Many of Creyts' artworks comment on environmental issues and interactions between people and nature. Nature may be excellent at rebirth, but what about products like tires?

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

PreK: VA:Cr2.1.PK (Use a variety of art-making tools)

Kindergarten: VA:Cr1.1.K (Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials)

1st Grade: VA:Cr1.2.1 (Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art)

2nd Grade: VA:Cr2.1.2 (Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design)

3rd Grade: VA:Cr1.1.3 (Elaborate on an imaginative idea)

4th Grade: VA:Cr2.1.4 (Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches)

5th Grade: VA:Cr1.1.5 (Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making)