

Interpreting Art in Context - BASIC

Visual Art High School Context-Based Performance Task

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

School: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Task Description

Task Overview

In this performance task students will demonstrate their ability to analyze and interpret works of art. After viewing a work of art and reading contextual articles, students will write a description of the work and develop a personal interpretation.

Task Activity

Part 1 - Task Overview

In this section, you will look at a work of art. You will describe the artwork using artistic qualities, such as elements of art, principles of design, expressive qualities, and artistic theories, and how those qualities help describe the meaning of an artwork.

Directions (Task Time: 10 minutes)

- Look at a work of art.
- You will write a short statement below interpreting the artwork using artistic qualities, such as elements of art, principles of design, expressive qualities, and artistic theories.
- Use at least three artistic qualities in your statement. These qualities can come from any of the following categories: Elements of Art, Principles of Design, Expressive Qualities, and/or Artistic Theories. Support these artistic qualities by citing visual evidence from the presented work.
- Write as clearly as you can so that another person can read your answer and understand what you are thinking.

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Part 2 - Task Overview

In this section, you will read text selections about the artist and artwork. You will use the text selections to support your interpretation of the artwork.

Directions (Task Time: 15 Minutes)

- In this part, you will read two articles on the following pages.
- Each selection provides different information about this artist surrounding the making of the artwork.
- After reading, look at the presented work again. In the space below, interpret the artwork citing information provided in the texts as evidence for the interpretation that you wrote in Part 1.
- Be sure to include at least one citation from each article in your response to support your interpretation of the artwork.

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Text Selection #1

The photographer unites his themes [of] masculinity, family dynamics, and the artistic and intellectual pursuits of black culture. He investigates and questions the norms and customs that govern our understanding of each other, our families, and the wide spectrum of life's ups and downs. His interiors focus on the everyday practice of life. He captures the rich values of lights and darks in the common setting of one's home. The images in the compositions fit perfectly into the environment as if they were one. The impact of the interior would not extend the same meaning without the image as an integral part of the 'story'. Capturing the right moment when image and environment blend together helps to represent the stillness of time.

Paraphrased excerpt on the artist, Cecil McDonald Jr.

Text Selection #2

Domestic Observations and Occurrences is a glimpse into the everyday moments of a handful of scholars, curators, artists and cultural producers who live and work in the Washington Park neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. McDonald allows us to eavesdrop on the beautifully mundane and transitory moments of residents that usually go unseen. From his position as a native of Chicago's south side, he is able to show a deep appreciation for commonalities that speak to the human experience while also paying homage to a Black experience and a Chicago experience. He merges the two, which ultimately gives a point of entry for anyone, whether you live on the south side of Chicago or not. He makes it easy for anyone to relate, even if the streets beyond the walls of the photographs are seen as foreign and forbidden territory to so many people around the globe and even in other parts of Chicago.

On Cecil McDonald, Jr.'s Domestic Observations and Occurrences
by Tempestt Hazel

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Part 3 - Task Overview

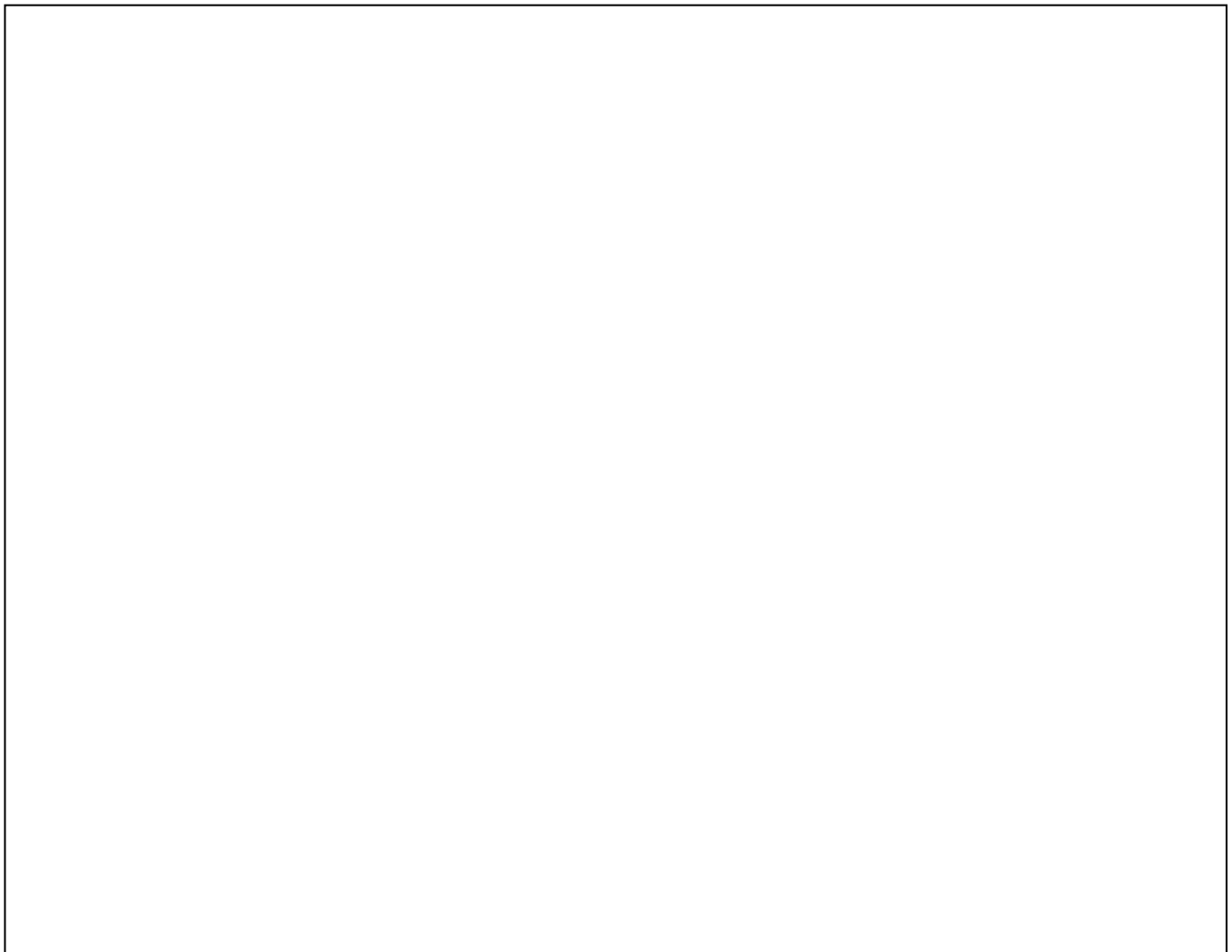
In this section, create a sketch about an issue or concern that is important to you. Then, answer reflection questions about your sketch.

Directions (Task Time: 5 minutes)

In the space below, create a sketch that addresses an issue or concern of importance to you. This is a planning sketch for a future artwork you would create.

In creating the sketch, you should consider:

- Why the issue or concern is of importance/significance to you
- What materials you would use to make the artwork and how the materials relate to the meaning of your artwork
- How you would make the work (process) and how the making of it relates to the meaning of your artwork
- How artistic qualities (Elements of Art, Principles of Design, Expressive Qualities, and Artistic Theories) communicate the meaning of your artwork



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Directions (Task Time: 10 minutes)

Based on your sketch, answer the following questions in the space provided. Be sure to read and answer all parts of the questions.

1. What is the issue or concern you address in your artwork? Explain the significance of the work to you.

2. Explain how and why you would use specific materials and a specific process to create your final artwork. Explain how the materials and process relates to the overall meaning of the artwork.

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- Describe how you will use at least 3 artistic qualities (Elements of Art, Principles of Design, Expressive Qualities, and Artistic Theories) to communicate your vision of your artwork. Explain how the artistic qualities relate to the overall meaning of the artwork.
