

CuriARTsity: Lesley Dill

Subject	Age Level	Time
Art/Language Arts	3 rd (Adjustable 2-5)	90 min

Overview

Lesley Dill finds her inspiration from the words of great poets and uses lines from her favorite poems in her art works. She is also fascinated by the idea of mantras, words with sacred powers that are repeated to help focus the mind. Language and repetition are combined in her work, *Shimmer*.

For this activity students will write their own poems or mantras and bring them to life. Students should watch the Whatcom Museum's video "Behind the Frame: Lesley Dill's Shimmer" and create a work inspired by the art piece discussed in the video.

Activity Connections

Shimmer is part of the Museum's collection, and Curator Amy Chaloupka discusses the artist and piece in [this video](#).

Materials

Paper

Watercolor paints (you can also use any art medium in place of watercolors)

Chenille stick

Yarn/String (you can also use ribbon or felt cut into strips)

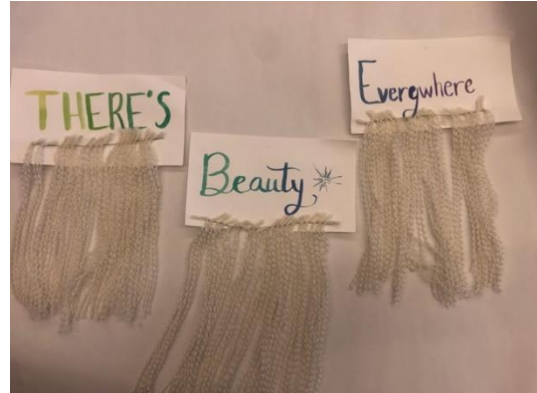
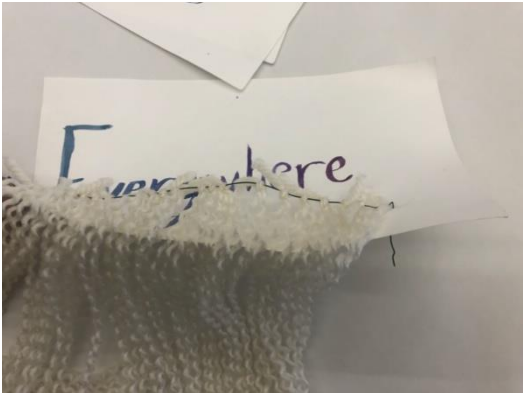
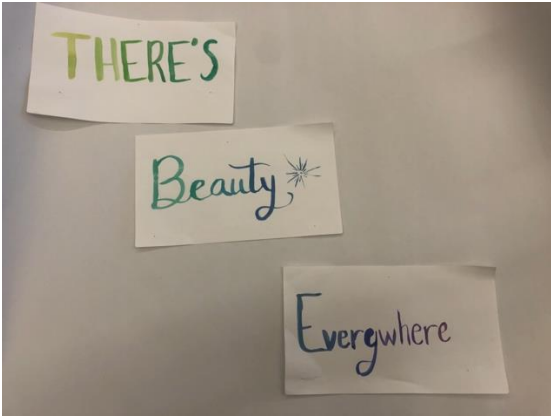
Scissors

Ruler

Activity

1. First, have the students come up with a one-line poem, something as simple as a three-word poem will do. They can also choose to come up with a simple mantra such as "there's beauty everywhere."
2. Next, the students cut out rectangular pieces of paper, a piece for every word in their poem or mantra.
3. The students then use watercolors to practice calligraphy and write their poem or mantra onto the pieces of paper. Remember, one word per paper.
4. Now the students should choose out their yarn and cut 10 to 12-inch strands. The students can cut as many or as few strands as they want, but it should be noted that you'll need at least 20 pieces of yarn per word.
 - Spice up this activity up by using multiple colors of yarn, or even dyeing white yarn with watercolors.
5. The students will need one chenille stick for every word they are using for this project. Students should tie at least 20 strands of yarn onto their chenille stick spreading the strands evenly.
6. Finally, have the students use the ends of their chenille sticks to punch holes in the paper beneath their poem words so that the strands hang underneath their calligraphy.
7. Voila! The students have their own "shimmer" art piece!

Activity Images



Related Ideas and Additional Resources

Calligraphy: <https://www.brahminlettering.com/calligraphy-resources>

Water Color Calligraphy: <https://thepostmansknock.com/a-video-crash-course-on-watercolor-calligraphy/>