



# Explorations in Art

MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Marilyn G. Stewart and Eldon Katter

## Theme-Based Learning

Unit themes inspired by Boyer's Universal Human Commonalities, such as "Belonging" and "Making a Difference," underscore the **relevance of art in students' lives and reveal the important role art plays in cultures around the world.** Use these big ideas to create essential questions for your students.

## Process-Based Studios

By learning a process that emphasizes the **importance of thinking, planning, and reflection** in creating superior, original artworks, **students go beyond the basics of art making.**

## Solid Foundation in Art Concepts

No other program provides such strong support for teaching art concepts and **elements and principles.** Includes in-depth lessons, helpful illustrations of skills and techniques, brilliant historical and contemporary fine art examples, exemplary student artwork, and a comprehensive **Student Handbook** with techniques, art movements, examples of the elements and principles, and much more!

## Flexibility

Written with the art educator in mind, the Teacher's Edition is packed with resources and suggestions that allow you to **adapt *Explorations in Art* for your school, classroom, and teaching style.**

*Explorations in Art*, Middle School includes three titles:

### ***A Personal Journey***

*A Personal Journey* focuses on the journey of the artist and how this journey can change an artist's perspective and approach.

### ***A Community Connection***

*A Community Connection* focuses on how communities use art to communicate. Art History and Traditions lessons focus on **U.S. history**, making this book a good fit with the study of U.S. history.

### ***A Global Pursuit***

*A Global Pursuit* helps students connect with artists' ideas that are shared by people around the world. The **European History** focus of the Art History and Traditions lessons compares cultures from all other parts of the globe. This makes it a good book to use in the study of Western history and culture.



Inspiring Creativity Since 1901

For more information, visit [DavisArt.com](http://DavisArt.com), call 800.533.2847, or email [ContactUs@DavisArt.com](mailto:ContactUs@DavisArt.com).

## 5.6 Studio Exploration—Sculpture

### From Branches to Animals

#### Studio Background

Have you ever seen a dried shaped like a vase? How about tree branches in the shape of a horn? Shape and form are one in nature can excite our imagination, and can inspire artists to make fantastic creations. Artists often respond to qualities, such as shape, form, and color, that art materials offer.

In this studio exploration, you will build a sculptural animal out of wood scraps and branches. Look carefully at collected scraps of wood. Find interesting wood forms or branches or twigs that have fallen from trees. Turn the wood pieces and look at all the sides and angles. Do any pieces look like animal shapes? Let the shapes and forms of the wood inspire you.

#### You Will Need

- wood scraps
- small tree branches, twigs, or sticks
- staple, glue, coping saw, sandpaper
- wood glue
- tempera or acrylic paint
- paintbrushes

#### Step 1: Plan and Practice

- Decide whether you will use wood scraps or branches to create your animal. You may use both.
- Spent some time looking at the wood to get your ideas.
- Decide what animal you will sculpt.
- Select your materials. Choose one or two pieces from which to create the main form of the animal. What small pieces can you add to create ears, legs, a tail, or other features?

#### Things to Remember:

- Choose wood scraps or branches that help show your animal's form and characteristics.
- Arrange and shape parts of your sculpture to suggest movement or a pose.
- If you use paint, choose paint colors that express a specific mood.

### Inspiration from Art

Woodcarving from twisted tree branches is a popular art form among the Zapoteco of southern Mexico's Oaxaca Valley. Artists carve animal sculptures, usually ones that show movement and expressive poses. The shapes of the branches help the artists decide what animals to make.



Oaxacans have carved toys and masks for hundreds of years. Today, over 200 Oaxacan families of woodcarvers produce sculptures. Some family members carve the sculptures, and others paint them. Although the carvers sign the sculptures, the entire family plays a part in their production.

The decorating of the sculptures is as important as the carving. Instead of turning to nature for decoration ideas, the artists use colors and patterns that are brighter, bolder, and fancier than those in nature. Imagine seeing a bright blue bird with lavender and red flames, or a green and orange-spotted antelope with pink hooves!

Fig. 3-25 Look at the shape of the sculpture. How does the artist show movement to you? (Reproduction, artist's name, artist's show movement to you?)

## 5.6 Studio Exploration Continued

### Step 2: Begin to Create

- Arrange and shape the pieces to suggest movement or an expressive pose.



- Carefully shape the main form with a saw or other tools. If you use more than one piece of wood, glue the main forms together. Then add the smaller features.



- After you have assembled your animal, decide whether you will decorate it. Will you leave your sculpture natural, with or without the new look? Do you want to paint it?

- If you decide to paint your sculpture, think about color and pattern. Be as creative as you can! What mood do you want your colors to suggest? What colors can create a happy, scary, dangerous, gentle, or peaceful animal?



### Step 3: Revise

#### Did you remember to:

- Choose wood scraps or branches that help show your animal's form and characteristics?
- Arrange and shape parts of your sculpture to create movement or a pose?
- Choose paint colors that express a specific mood?

Adjust your work if necessary. In your sketchbook, make a note of your revisions and why you made them.

#### Step 4: Add Finishing Touches

- Examine your sculpture and add any desired details.

### Step 5: Share and Reflect

- Share your sculpture with your classmates.
- Discuss how you came up with the idea for your animal sculpture.

- How did the shape of the wood add to the shape and pose of your animal?
- How did details, or lack of details, help to create a mood?

### Art Criticism

#### Describe

Tell what you see in these sculptures.

#### Analyze

How have the artists utilized the natural form of the wood to create their creatures?



Fig. 3-26 Student work.

#### Interpret

What moods and feelings do these sculptures suggest?

#### Evaluate

Why might people find these sculptures appealing?



Fig. 3-27 Inspiration.

## Student Book, Studio Exploration

## Student Book Features

- 9 theme-based units focusing on a big idea such as Nature or Messages
- Images from diverse historical and contemporary artists
- 54 studios with stellar examples of student artwork
- Artist biographies
- Art criticism of fine art and student artwork
- Step-by-step technique illustrations
- Illuminating timelines provide visual context
- Global View lessons focus on cultures around the world

## Teacher Edition Features

- Four key sections that organize the instruction of each lesson: Prepare, Teach, Assess, Close
- Point-of-use support on every page
- Compare and contrast Venn diagrams
- Ideas for extending each lesson
- Vocabulary in English and Spanish
- Numerous teaching options, including inquiry, extensions, differentiated instruction, computer variations, and more
- Strategies for using text and images effectively
- Additional background on art and artists

## eBook Class Set

eBooks are accessed on Davis Digital, a cloud-based online platform designed specifically for K–12 art educators. Davis Digital includes access to the same high-quality content and images contained in the print versions of our textbooks, but with added features and flexibility. Take a test drive at **DavisArtSpace.com**.

- eBooks:** Each eBook purchase includes the Student Book, the Teacher's Edition, and the Reproducible Masters.
- Davis Art Images Subscription:** Extend the fine art in the ebook with access to more than 35,000 digital fine art images from around the globe and across time.
- Curriculum Builder:** A lesson planning and presentation tool that allows you to gather all of the content you need for your lessons in one place.
- Portfolios:** You and your students can create online portfolios. Share your portfolios with parents, classmates, and colleagues.
- Student Accounts:** Options include 30, 60, or 200 Student Accounts with the purchase of each eBook.

## Components for each level:

- Student Book (in Print or eBook)
- Teacher's Edition (in Print or eBook)
- Davis Art Images Subscription (with eBook)
- Portfolios (with eBook for Teachers and Students)
- Curriculum Builder (with eBook)
- Student e-Gallery CD-ROM
- Teacher Resources/ Reproducible Masters (with eBook or on CD-ROM)



Go to **DavisArt.com/Sample** to sample the eBook.

For more information, visit **DavisArt.com**, call **800.533.2847**, or email **ContactUs@DavisArt.com**.