

FOUND ART WINDCHIMES

When the original owner of the vacant lot at 1024 South Street saw Isaiah Zagar's mosaiced garden, he was outraged and threatened to bulldoze the entire space! The owner claimed that Isaiah Zagar's project was not art, claiming "I know what art is, and art is in the Louvre." The community felt differently; this mosaic labyrinth of colorful bottles, bicycle wheels, and other found objects was a unique art environment that needed to be protected. The community formed Philadelphia's Magic Gardens to purchase the property and save the space.

That landlord clearly had never heard of Marcel Duchamp, a French artist who was selected as the most influential artist of the 20th century. In 1917, Duchamp purchased a urinal and put it on a pedestal, titling his piece "The Fountain." Artists like Marcel Duchamp have utilized items such as drain pipes and bicycle wheels to give cultural and artistic meaning to everyday objects. Zagar has been greatly inspired by Duchamp and other Dada artists who rearrange "found" objects to transform them into pieces of art.



Students will read *The Dumpster Divers* by Janet Wong and collect small found objects that they would normally throw out -- bottle caps, seashells, buttons, utensils, etc. – and then transform these objects into an artful wind chime.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to recognize artist Marcel Duchamp and found object art.
- Students will be able to evaluate the importance of reusing materials and sustainability.
- Students will be able to list ways in which they can help the environment.
- Students will actively repurpose found objects into a piece of art.

MATERIALS

- Small "found objects" collected by students and teacher (bottle caps, buttons, sea shells, beads, etc.) Each student should have at least ten objects.
- Acrylic paint, markers, etc.
- Paintbrushes and paint holders
- Various add-on objects (glitter, cotton balls, collage paper pieces)
- Small bells
- Glue
- Scissors
- Twine, yarn or string
- Paper cups
- Plastic straws
- Hole punchers
- Metal washers

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happens to things that we throw away?
2. How does the amount of trash we produce affect the environment?
3. What types of objects can you reuse or recycle?
4. Have you ever transformed an object for a new purpose?

KEY VOCABULARY

Reduce- to bring down to a smaller extent, size, amount, number, etc.

Reuse- to use again, especially in a different way after reclaiming or reprocessing; to adapt to a new use

Recycle- to pass again through a series of changes or treatments in order to regain material for use

Found object- a natural or discarded object found by chance and thought to have aesthetic value

Sustainable- able to be used without being completely used up or destroyed; involving methods that do not completely use up or destroy natural resources; able continue for a long time

Pendulum - a body hung from a fixed point so as to swing freely back and forth with gravity

ACTIVITY

1. Read *The Dumpster Divers* by Janet S. Wong as a class.
2. Review and discuss the provided questions.
3. Ask students to bring in several small items from home that they normally would throw out. The teacher should also collect extra items to distribute if needed.
4. Trim a paper cup down to 3 inches.
5. Using a hole puncher, make 3 – 6 holes around the circumference of the cup.
6. Decorate the cup with paint, glitter, beads, etc.
7. Tie a small bell at the end of 4 of the strings. Set the 5th string aside for the pendulum.
8. Cut drinking straws into $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1-inch long pieces.
9. String beads and drinking straws through each of the 4 strings. Leave an allowance of 1.5 to 2 inches at the top of each string. Wrap objects with pipe cleaners and attach to the main string.
10. To make the pendulum, trim a pipe cleaner to around 6 inches and make a loop on one end.
11. Tie one end of the 5th string through the loop on the pipe cleaner.
12. Attach a metal shank button or metal washer on the other end of the string.
13. Punch a small hole at the center of the paper cup base. Attach the pendulum to the wind chimes by inserting the end of the pipe cleaner through the hole at the center of the paper cup. Pull all the way through the loop so the pipe cleaner serves as a stopper.
14. Check if the metal button or washer is at the same level as the bells. Loop the pipe cleaner on top to make the wind chimes' handle.
15. If you need to dispose of or dismantle your wind chime, sort out the materials that can be recycled or reused.

PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Reading Writing Speaking & Listening:

Types of Writing 1.4 A; Speaking and Listening 1.6 E

Arts & Humanities:

Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance,
Music, Theatre and Visual Arts 9.1.E
Historical and Cultural Context 9.2.H

Environment & Ecology:

Environmental Health 4.3 A
Environmental Health 4.3 B
Humans and the Environment 4.8 C