

Art 1201

Unit 1: Perception, Art, and
Technology

Perception and Technology

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Sensation and Perception

- It is important to understand the difference between sensation and perception.
- Humans both sense and perceive.
- Knowing the difference will help us make sense of our understanding of the world around us, and the incredible diversity of human creative expression.

Sensation

- Sensation is the beginning of our ability to understand our environment. Before we can perceive, we must sense something.
- Our senses help us to gather information about our environment.
- **Sensations** are the result of activities of our senses. It is a response to something. A stimulus activates a receptor.
- In humans, sight is our primary sense.

Perception

- Sensation and perception are linked. Once you are aware of a *sensation*, your brain is involved and it becomes a *perception*.
- Perception means that you have become aware of a stimulus directly through your senses. It also means to become aware of something and to achieve understanding.

- Perception occurs in the brain.
- Perceptions can be learned. Many of the conclusions your brain comes to, are things that you have learned over many years.
- Many of your perceptions about your environment, people, and things were learned.
- As people mature, they learn the behavior or their society, culture, community, friends and families. Their perceptions are shaped by these relationships.

Perception and the Visual Arts

- In the visual arts, we might think of works of art as examples of an individual's perceptions.
- Works of art are also examples of society's perceptions.

- Throughout history, cultures and civilizations have come and gone. Their art works reflect their beliefs, their ideals, their fears, and their desires.
- From their images we can learn about their perceptions of the world.

Style

- In the study of art works, images are grouped according to the place and time they were made.

Examples: Asian art (grouped by place), Renaissance art (grouped by time), etc.

- Images are also grouped according to the technology used to produce them.

Examples: Digital art, painting, photography, etc.

- A general term for these groupings is **style**.
- **Styles** of art show that people from similar places and times shared similar perceptions.
- The images they produced had so much in common that a person who studied art history can accurately place an unfamiliar image within the context of a particular civilization or culture.

Discussion

- What do contemporary images tell us about society?
- How are our society's perceptions of the world shown in our visual images?
- What can we tell about other cultures' perceptions from their visual images?

Project

- Using any one of a variety of media, create an image on the theme of **Perception**.
 - **What is your perception of beauty?**
 - *Write ½ SB page on what beauty means to you.*
 - *Sketch your Perception artwork idea on ½ SB page.*
 - *List materials you will need to create your artwork.*
 - Possible media you can use:
 - Drawing
 - Painting
 - Collage
 - Photography