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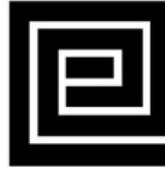
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Project Title: Imagine Surrender

Yoko Ono/Conceptual Art: Outreach

Synopsis: Yoko Ono's art pushes the audience in new directions. Her "happenings" force participation of the audience and encourages them to be fully engaged. The traditional role of artist and viewer are reversed. Yoko Ono pioneered **Conceptual Art** that redefines what art can be. The process becomes more important than the outcome. Yoko Ono was part of the Fluxus Art Movement within Conceptual Art. The two articles below describe these art movements. Please read and visit the websites indicated for a fuller understanding of her work.

Yoko Ono's art makes the viewer rethink and revisit previously held beliefs and concepts. This project, "Imaging Surrender", inverts our common understanding of the word surrender. The phrase "waving the white flag" connotes failure. But what if "surrender" was not failure but giving in for the sake of the greater good? Our museum promotes VTS and one of the primary goals is listening and respecting each other's opinions. Everyone gets to be heard and everyone processes the information in a safe and considerate environment. Consensus and engagement are the building blocks of our participatory democracy. We now live in an age of increasingly angry opinions and misunderstanding across the spectrum of American life. "Imagine Surrender" challenges the participants to reexamine their understanding of the word **surrender**. Is "surrendering" really a personal defeat or is it a concession for the good of the group? Do you have to renounce or abandon your beliefs by giving in to the wants of another person or is it a way of compromising so that you can co-exist peacefully?

"Waving the white flag" has been a symbol of loss, but what if it became a symbolic "win-win"? The goal of this project is to invert the concept surrender. Our possessions, not only material wealth, but ideas and feelings are all candidates for the iconic "recycle bin." The process is self-reflective with the goal of strengthening our core values as participants in the larger world. Ask yourself and the participants, "Can I surrender this feeling of jealousy? Do I hold onto the feeling of superiority to the homeless guy on the corner with a sign? Do I really need to deride politicians or classmates because I disagree with them? Do I really need a Fidget Spinner? Can I let go of my Eggo?" We all do a lot and believe in a lot of things with a knee jerk reaction. This project forces the participants to reflect and react to their thoughts and actions. It is about taking personal responsibility for outcomes in the world we live in. Maybe the "things" we think are so precious aren't really after all. Maybe we all win by losing.

Yoko Ono Project: Imagine Surrender

This project can be one, two or three steps depending on group and time constraints.

The limited large crowd version:

Activity 1: Using white paper and pens participants will write "I surrender (fill in with poem or one thing)." on the paper. (Alternative is white handkerchief). We will take all the paper flags and hang them on a clothesline or line them up on sticks to create a graphic image of unity.

What can I surrender?

Material objects, emotions, preconceived notions, defensive and offensive behavior, self-destructive behavior and thoughts, events...anything. Little or large, these things make a difference in our culture

- *A person could eat Beyond Burger instead of a beef hamburger to protect the environment
- *Feelings of racism, sexism
- *Name calling because someone has a different point of view (including on Social Media)
- *Instead of driving to work take a bus/bicycle or walk for a week
- *Marching in a rally where people belittle other people
- *Wishing malice on "Tom Brady" or any sports figure on the opposing team...yelling obscenities at the TV
- *Stop using water bottles or plastic wrap

The classroom/small group version:

Activity 2: On index cards participants will compose a poem based on whatever they have decided to surrender. Haiku is good for older students and adults. Surrender rhymes with many words that are appropriate for this activity, but being a Conceptual Project, free verse is also acceptable. We will then post these index cards together to form a large mural.

Activity 3: Finally, using colored clay, the participants/artists will make a small replica of the thing they are giving up and also group them together. **THIS CAN BE CONCEPTUALLY CHALLENGING FOR SOME OF THE EMOTIONS ETC.** Encourage some critical and creative thinking about what would symbolize that emotion. We can use a glass fish tank or any glass/see-through container to display them. It may be challenging to make a figure of feeling but that's part of the process and an engaging activity. This process would emphasize that "we are in this together" theme.

Poem Samples:

Yoko Ono's poem from Grapefruit: A Book of Drawings and Instructions

AIR TALK

It's sad that the air is the only
thing we share.
No matter how close we get to each other,
there is always air between us.

It's also nice that we also share the air.
No matter how far apart we are,
the air links us.

Haiku (or hokku)

A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables, written in a 5/7/5 syllable count. Often focusing on images from nature, haiku emphasizes simplicity, intensity, and directness of expression.

Glorious autumn
Flawed pride I surrender now
Before the leaves fall

Delete the burger
Is it so impossible
Just to surrender?
Windswept sandy shore
Across the sea children wait
Surrender bias

Sun blazes orange
Mother Nature loves the earth
I surrender hate

Free Verse Poems

Free verse poems do not follow the rules, and have no rhyme or rhythm; but they are still an artistic expression. They are sometimes thought to be a modern form of **poetry**; but, the **free verse** types of **poem** have been around for hundreds of years.

Into the night I am drawn

But why must I only see the shadows

I surrender to the light of the stars and the moon

Rhyming Poems

Rhyme can add a driving music to your poems, giving them a memorable quality that can be a lot of fun. While not all poems need to rhyme, poems that do rhyme tend to seem all the more spectacular for pulling off such a complex composition. If you want to try your hand at rhyming poetry, learn the basics, get inspired, and [write your poem!](#)

What Are the Different Types of Rhyme

Schemes Used in Poetry?

There are endless numbers of rhyme schemes that may manifest in a poem, but some of the most popular ones include:

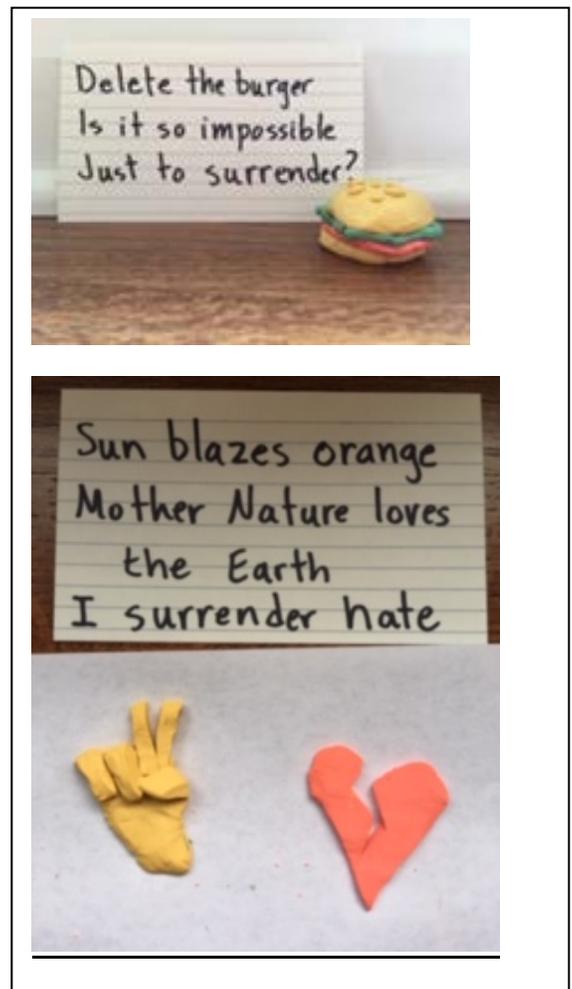
- ABAB
- ABCB
- AABBA
- AABB
- AAAAA (monorhyme)

I envision a world where we all discuss

Right now I wonder what's wrong with us

Wouldn't it be better if public defender

Meant there was an opinion I could surrender?



Vanessa German

"Where you realize you had wings the whole time."



Vanessa German Collage: Three Easy Steps

- 1) **Background:** Have students select a not too busy/simple background. Paste down.
- 2) **Middle Ground:** Create a figure with patterned papers. Doesn't have to be whole body/ just waist up is easy to do. Realistic proportions NOT necessary! Paste down.
- 3) **Foreground:** Have students look at all the elements in Vanessa German's collage. Recommend using items or patterns that are relevant to their own lives.

Great Resources for Lesson Plans:

[Pinterest](#)

Dickblick.com/lesson-plans/

Metmuseum.org/learn/educators