

**Core Art Grade 8**  
**Syllabus and Class Description**  
**2007-2008**  
**Miss Weiss**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Core Art curriculum is mainly a chronological study of how art has developed since the mid 1900's. We will study a wide variety of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, and architecture. The art history of this time period will be complimented by a wide range of projects in these media. We will also spend some time during the beginning of the year to review the Elements of Art and other concepts that are more directly related to the development of visual skills and studio skills.

The text that the students will use throughout the year will be *The Story of Art* by E.H. Gombrich, a comprehensive book explaining changes and major themes of Art History.

The grading for the class will be based on the following percentages:

50% studio projects, artwork  
25% quizzes and written projects  
25% class participation

For each artist we study, there will be a short quiz on the following class period. Therefore, each student needs to take good notes and pay attention during lectures. Everyone will be required to have a **bound** notebook that the student can refer to throughout the year. Many of the concepts that we talk about will relate to one another and references will often be made to past lectures. The students are also required to participate in class discussions and critiques. It is an integral part of our learning.

Projects are graded based on your level of effort, ability to follow instructions, and (somewhat) by the end product. Trying hard and coming up with an unsatisfying art piece is not a failure in my book, but an important step to fearless art making.

Here is a month by month breakdown of the art periods and artists we will study: Each artist will take approximately one week.

September:

Review the elements of art  
Painters of the mid 1950's  
Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence  
Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein

October:

Helen Frankenthaler and Mark Rothko  
Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock

November:

Photography  
Alfred Steiglitz and Edward Steichen

Margaret Bourke-White and Dorothea Lange

December:

Photography  
Ansel Adams and Henri Carter-Bresson

January:

Sculpture:  
Auguste Rodin and Henri Moore  
Pablo Picasso and Constantin Brancusi

February:

Sculpture:  
Alexander Calder and Claes Oldenburg

March:

Sculpture:  
Louise Nevelson and Maya Lin

April:

Architecture:  
Metal Structures-the Crystal Palace and Eiffel Tower  
Skyscrapers-Chrysler Building and Empire State Building

May:

Architecture:  
Frank Lloyd Wright  
International Style-Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and  
Philip Johnson