

## Inside Art, Fall 2019— *Return of the Real*

### **Title**

*Robert Lazzarini: Master of Sculptural Illusion*

### **Estimated Time for Completion of Lesson**

1 class period

### **Concept/Main Idea of Lesson**

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the sculptural work of American artist Robert Lazzarini. Students will learn about the artist's artistic process, view and analyze some of his sculptures, and reflect on some objects in their everyday lives.

### **Intended Grade Levels**

Grades 6-12

### **Infusion/Subject Areas**

Visual Arts  
Social Studies

### **Curriculum Standards**

#### *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards*

- Visual Arts:

VA.912.C.1.2: Use critical-thinking skills for various contexts to develop, refine, and reflect on an artistic theme.

VA.912.C.1.4: Apply art knowledge and contextual information to analyze how content and ideas are used in works of art.

VA.912.C.3.1: Use descriptive terms and varied approaches in art analysis to explain the meaning or purpose of an artwork.

- Social Studies:

SS.912.H.2.1: Identify specific characteristics of works within various art.

SS.912.H.2.3: Apply various types of critical analysis (contextual, formal, and intuitive criticism) to works in the arts, including the types and use of symbolism within art forms and their philosophical implications.

SS.912.A.1.7: Describe various socio-cultural aspects of American life including arts, artifacts, literature, education, and publications.

#### *National Standards for Arts Education*

Visual Arts Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

Visual Arts Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

National Council for the Social Studies  
 Individuals, Groups, and Institutions  
 Science, Technology, and Society

Common Core

VA.912.C.2.2: Assess the works of others, using established or derived criteria, to support conclusions and judgments about artistic progress.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.5: Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

LACC.1112.L.3.6: Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

**Instructional Objectives**

The student will:

- view and analyze the sculptural work of American artist Robert Lazzarini;
- study the artistic process Lazzarini uses to create 3-D sculptures;
- reflect on everyday objects in their daily lives;
- engage in small-and whole-group discussion.

**Learning Activities Sequence**

**Attention-Getter:** Activate the PowerPoint, “Day 1.Robert Lazzarini (Overview and Bio)” and project on a screen. Advance the PPT to slide 2 asking students to consider each of the 3 images (images have been animated to come in one at a time). After students name each object [violin, gun, and telephone], ask:

- What do all these images have in common? [they are all distorted]
- What materials do you think were used to create these objects?
- Why do you think they were distorted?

Advance to slide 3 to reveal the titles of each art work and the materials from which they were constructed.

*Ask students:* How do you think these distortions were made?

Explain that although the images might look like they are digitally manipulated or Photoshopped, in reality they are 3D sculptures that were intentionally skewed by the artist, Robert Lazzarini.

Lazzarini is known for taking ordinary objects and creating sculptures that are so distorted that the visual, physical experience challenges perception and disrupts normal visual recognition. He constructs his sculptures out of the same materials as their real

world counterparts.

Advance to slide 4 to show *Gun* next to the artist's hand for perspective. The three-dimensional nature of Lazzarini's work means that in a gallery, the viewer is encouraged to walk around the sculpture to examine the artwork from all angles.

Slide 5: Tell students that today they will learn about Robert Lazzarini, an American artist who has been called "The Master of Sculptural Illusion."

### **Learning Activities:**

#### **PPT-Guided Mini-Lecture:**

Slide 6: Brief biography of the artist.

Slide 7: Ask a volunteer to read the quote by Lazzarini. Ask one or more students to paraphrase the quote, summarizing its meaning.

Slide 8: Explain the artistic process used by Lazzarini (each of the steps are animated, to come in one by one).

Slide 9: Distribute the worksheet provided. Direct students to fill in the handout as they consider each of the following 9 images of selected sculptural works by the artist.

Slides 10-18: Show each image, allowing enough time (~ 2 minutes for each) for students to take notes and write down their thoughts and impressions.

#### **Think-Pair-Share:**

Ask students to consider the two questions at the bottom of the worksheet, allowing 2-3 minutes for them to independently write down their responses. Then ask students to share their responses with a neighbor (1 minute per student). Finally, bring the class back together for a whole group discussion.

**Closure:** In a whole group discussion format, scroll back to the 9 images, asking for volunteers to share their thoughts and impressions on each of the artworks. Then ask for volunteers to share their selections of which everyday object they chose to distort and why.

#### **Evaluation**

Student engagement throughout the lesson, completion of worksheet, participation in small and whole-group discussions.

#### **Optional Extension Activities**

Provide computer/Internet access for students to visit Robert Lazzarini's web page: <http://www.robertlazzarini.com> to learn more about his life, work, and exhibitions.

**Materials and Resources**

PPT: "Day 1.Robert Lazzarini (Overview and Bio)"  
Computer  
Projector  
Screen  
Worksheet: "Day 1.Analysis & Reflection worksheet"  
Pencils/Pens for writing

**References**

Blouin ARTINFO. (2013). In the studio with Robert Lazzarini, master of sculptural illusions. Retrieved from: <https://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/854182/in-the-studio-with-robert-lazzarini-master-of-sculptural>

Lazzarini, R.. (2019). *Robert Lazzarini*. <http://www.robertlazzarini.com/>

Marsh, J. (2006). Looking beyond vision: On phenomenology, minimalism and the sculptures of Robert Lazzarini. *Robert Lazzarini: Seen/Unseen*. Charlotte: Mint Museum of Art, 2006.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. (n.d.). *Robert Lazzarini*. Retrieved from: [http://www.artmag.com/museums/a\\_usa/ausrdvf/lazzarin.html](http://www.artmag.com/museums/a_usa/ausrdvf/lazzarin.html)