



Visarts: Engage

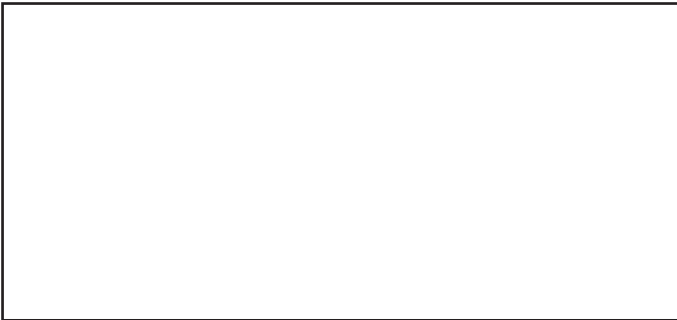
Grades K-5

Take a walk around the gallery; what kinds of materials do you see being used? List the materials you see below:

What are the themes you notice in this work? What images do you see over and over again? Jot down a bunch of words below:

An adjective is a word we use to describe something! What words can you use to describe these sculptures? Are they mostly large, or small in scale? Are they brightly colored or dark? Are they big and bulky or delicate?

Why do you think the artist chose to make her houses out of these materials? If you were going to make a house, what would you make it out of? Would you like to make a tiny house or a giant house? Draw your ideas below:



TRY THIS AT HOME!

The hair extensions used to weave the sculptures in this exhibition were found outside of an abandoned hair salon in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. They would probably have been taken to the garbage dump along with lots of other things, creating more waste, but instead the artist took them home, washed them, dried them and used them to create her art! What do you have at home that you could repurpose to create art with? Try creating a sculpture of your home with recycled and found objects, and use the themes and adjectives you wrote down above to help you decide what it will look like!



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Grades 6-8

In Mourning Portrait, Loren Schwerd is creating sculptures to memorialize the houses that were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Why do you think she used hair extensions as her material?

Do you think these images are powerful? What makes them emotionally affecting, if so? The best art makes you think and feel things - what does this work make you feel/think about? Jot down some words below:

Memento Mori jewelry was created from the hair of a deceased person to honor them, and the sculptures from the exhibition were inspired by the same idea of mourning. Mourning involves showing an outward sign of grief for something that has ended, which can be expressed through clothing, writing, speaking, or art. What is the artist mourning?

What are some other examples of memorials that you can think of in our culture? How do people remember things/people and honor them? (**Hint: Have you driven down Richmond's Monument Avenue? This is a historical city, how many things around us have you seen that describe the way things used to be in the past?)

TRY THIS AT HOME!

Get on the internet and research Memento Mori (which in latin means: remember you will die) and Hair Mourning Jewelry. What could you make to memorialize a time in your life that is over, and what materials could you use to make it meaningful? For example: use simple bookbinding to create a blank journal made out of newspaper pages from 2009 to commemorate the year, and write your memories of the year in it!