

IB VISUAL ARTS 1 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

All Summer Work should be completed in an 8 ½ X 11 hardcover sketchbook.

PART 1:

"THERE IS A VITALITY, A LIFE FORCE, AN ENERGY, A QUICKENING, THAT IS TRANSLATED THROUGH YOU INTO ACTION; AND BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE OF YOU IN ALL TIME, THIS EXPRESS IS UNIQUE AND IF YOU BLOCK IT, IT WILL NEVER EXIST THROUGH ANY OTHER MEDIUM AND WILL BE LOST."

...**MARTHA GRAHAM**

Read and think about Martha Graham's thoughts. Interpret it in your own words.

PART 2:

SUMMER AND TIME

"NOW IT IS SUMMER BY THE ALMANAC. SUMMER CAME WITH THE SOLSTICE THIS MORNING WHEN, TO GIVE "SOLSTICE" IT'S LITERAL MEANING, THE SUN STOOD STILL. IT WAS TURNING THE CORNER OF THE SEASONS AND NOW IT BEGINS TO MOVE SOUTH AGAIN, AS WE SAY, TOWARD FALL AND WINTER. WE ARE AT THE TIME OF LONGEST DAYLIGHT, EARLIEST SUNRISE AND LATEST SUNSET, WHICH WILL CONTINUE WITH ONLY A FEW SECONDS OF CHANGE FOR ANOTHER WEEK. TIME, IF WE WOULD ONLY PAUSE AND LET IT FLOW OVER US, FOR A LITTLE WHILE PARTAKES OF THE DELIBERATION THAT IS THE MARK OF SUMMER IN ALMOST EVERYTHING EXCEPT MAN'S AFFAIRS.

SPRING HAS ITS OWN HASTE. SPRING IS SPROUTING AND BURGEONING, THE OPENING OF THE LEAF AND THE BLOSSOM. IT IS MATING AND BIRTHING, HATCHING OF THE EGG, THE SPREADING WING, THE URGENCY OF THE BEE AND THE WASP, THE SURGE OF GREEN ACROSS THE EARTH. THEN THE FIRST RUSH IS OVER, THE TREES ARE VAST CANOPIES OF CHLOROPHYLL, THE MEADOWS TALL WITH GRASS, THE FIELDS THICK-BLADED WITH CORN AND OATS. JUNE MATURES INTO SUMMER AND THE QUIET PROCESS OF GROWTH FOR WHICH APRIL AND MAY WERE A TIME OF PREPARATION. SUMMER BECOMES A SUMMARY OF SPRING'S ACHIEVEMENT, A TOTALING OF SUN AND RAINING AND FERTILE SOIL ADDED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SEED AND THE ROOT.

THE URGENCY OF SPRING IS PAST. THE BERRIES RIPEN IN THEIR OWN TIME. THE BEES REPLENISH THE HIVE. CLOVER COMES TO SWEET BLOSSOM THEN TO SEED. DAISIES WHITEN THE ROADSIDES. FIREFLIES SPARKLE THE EVENING. TIME FLOWS LIKE THE BROOKS THAT MUST HAVE LEISURED THROUGH EDEN WHEN SUMMER BLESSED A YOUNG AND INNOCENT EARTH."

(SOURCE UNKNOWN)

After reading the quote, please think into the nature of the summer season...Your sensate experience of its particular essence. BE AWARE. Please complete one journal entry for every week of summer (8 entries).

PART 3: **Visual Arts Exhibition Visits**

Please visit a minimum of 3 exhibitions. Museums hold the vision of Artists who have looked at life with a sensitive eye and spirit. Be very specific in the structure of your response as it will build your vocabulary, and by default, your ability to express your ideas. After choosing the exhibitions, (they can be in the same museum) choose a work from each to focus on. ***(That's 1 work from each exhibition for a total of 3 works.)*** Bring your Investigative Workbook with you. Wander slowly and thoughtfully through each exhibit. Allow yourself to **inter/act** with the work.

FOR EACH OF THE 3 WORKS AND EXHIBITIONS THAT YOU CHOOSE, WRITE ABOUT THEM IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

- 1. Describe the nature of the exhibit as a whole.** Walk slowly, absorb, ponder, and respond.
- 2. Select a work to focus on and discuss. Identify the artist and title of the work.** Include the date (if given), medium, and size. Include a photograph, drawing, or postcard of the piece you have selected.
- 3. Description:** Spend time with the work and give particular attention to the details that are part of the piece. Be as specific as possible. Try to use the art elements and principles of design to support your description.
This step is very important!
- 4. Emotional Response:** Based on your description (what you have observed about the work), Identify the emotional essence of the work. What "mood" or feeling does it convey? Discuss how the various art elements (line, shape, texture, color etc.) are used to convey the mood.
- 5. Making connections:**
Art "connects" us to ourselves and to the world of experience. Discuss the connections which you have discovered through your encounter with the exhibit and the specific piece you have selected to focus upon.

**** Remember you are responding to 3 separate works from 3 separate exhibitions...one from each. Don't shy away from sculpture or installation. Be courageous and don't forget to prove that you went by including a postcard or flier from the exhibition. Include an image of the pieces you have chosen. Get in the habit of documenting your research.***

PART 4:

Frustration is an inherent part of the creative process; something that we can strive to welcome rather than avoid. Often our strongest work is born out of that struggle. Interpret this quote and relate it to a personal experience. How did you handle the unexpected? How did you cope with creative "unknowns"?

"Because many people are unaware of the necessity of frustration, they get discouraged and give up before their deep creativity has a chance to emerge. The feelings, particularly the ambiguity associated with this stage are so uncomfortable that they cause most people to abandon the problem completely or else jump into premature closure; that is, to decide on a solution or a course of action that is by no means the most elegant one possible, but that will enable them to get on with it..."

Lois Robbins