

InsideART

Title

Bosco Sodi: An Homage to Spanish Artists

Estimated Time for Completion of Lesson

1-3 class periods (see optional Day 1 and 2, below)

Concept/Main Idea of Lesson

This lesson presents *Vers L'Espagne* (tr. "To Spain"), Bosco Sodi's homage to Antoni Tàpies, one of the Spanish artists influencing his early development as a painter.

Intended Grade Levels

Grades 6-12

Infusion/Subject Areas

Visual Arts

Social Studies

Curriculum Standards

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

- Visual Arts:

VA.68.C.1.2: Use visual evidence and prior knowledge to reflect on multiple interpretations of works of art.

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.

VA.912.C.3.3: Examine relationships among social, historical, literary, and/or other references to explain how they are assimilated into artworks.

- Social Studies:

SS.912.H.2.5: Describe how historical, social, cultural, and physical settings influence an audience's aesthetic response.

National Standards for Arts Education

Anchor Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

National Council for the Social Studies
 People, Places, and Environments
 Culture

Instructional Objective

The student will:

- critically view and analyze selected works by Bosco Sodi from the *Básico* art exhibition presented by the USF Contemporary Art Museum;
- examine the influence of Spanish artist Antoni Tàpies on Bosco Sodi's early development as a painter;
- engage in reflection, discussion, and writing.

Learning Activities Sequence

Optional Day 1 and Day 2 activity: Because *Vers L'Espagne* is Bosco Sodi's homage to the Spanish artists influencing his early development as a painter, teachers may opt to assign students to one of five groups to collaboratively research the work of the following artists identified by Sodi:

Joan Miró;

The unknown draughtsman of the Altamira caves;

Antoni Tàpies;

Eduardo Chillida;

Manolo Millares.

After conducting the research and assembling a short presentation (Day 1), students can share their findings with their classmates (Day 2), thus providing background and context for Sodi's *Vers L'Espagne* series.

Pre-Teaching: Review and read through the Notes View of the PPT presentation. Activate the PowerPoint and advance to slide 2.

Attention-Getter: Reflection and Whole-Group Discussion

Read aloud the quote by Bosco Sodi about viewing the work of Antoni Tàpies for the first time at the age of 18.

Ask: Have you ever had an arts experience --- a piece of music, a poem, an art work, a dance performance, etc. --- that impressed you greatly? [Allow a few minutes of silence so all students have an opportunity to reflect and compose a response to share with the class.]

Discuss: What was it about the work that caused such a great impression on you? Since then, how has it influenced you?

Slide 3: Explain that Tàpies is an important Spanish (Catalan) artist whose work deeply influenced the young Bosco Sodi, years before Sodi knew he would devote his life to

art. Review the bullet points on the slide about Tàpies.

Slide 4: Tell students that years later, Sodi was able to return to Spain and contemplate some of Tàpies' works in the Miró chapel of the Fundacio Joan Miró in Barcelona. By that time, Sodi was a well-known artist and received permission from the museum to contemplate the works alone in the room for two hours.

Slide 5: Tell students that today they will examine the influence of Spanish artist Antoni Tàpies on Bosco Sodi's early development as a painter, particularly as it is evidenced in his series, *Vers L'Espagne* ("To Spain").

Learning Activities:

Critical Viewing and Discussion

Slides 6-14: Present selected works from *Vers L'Espagne*, including a close-up of one of the works and the installation views. As they view, ask students to consider:

What types of materials do you think the artist used to create the works?

What process(es) do you think he used?

What evidence of Tàpies's influence can you see in Sodi's work?

Mini-Lecture and Discussion

Slides 15-19: Biography of the artist and discussion of his creative process, including the concept of *wabi sabi*.

Closure: Reflection and Writing

Slide 20: Ask a volunteer to read aloud the quote by Sodi about his creative process: "It's about embracing the accident, embracing the non-control, embracing the passing of time and working with organic materials."

Direct students to reflect on this quotation and write a reflection in their student journals in response to these prompts:

As an artist:

- What are the risks of giving up control and "embracing the accident"?
- What are the benefits of having a *wabi sabi* approach in the creative process?
- If you were to create a work of art with organic materials, what would you choose? Why?

Evaluation/Assessment

Engagement and participation in class discussion, critical viewing and analysis, reflection, and writing activities.

In art classes, students can complete one of the art learning activities below.

Art Learning Activities

After considering Bosco Sodi's creative process, students can design and create an art work using natural sources. They should be able to explain their materials selection and observe the changes the work undergoes over time.

Using the Japanese philosophy of *wabi sabi*, students can conduct independent research on its guiding tenets, its origins in Buddhism, and examples of it in practice. To learn more about *wabi sabi*, students can view these short videos:

"What is wabi sabi?" (6:45 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK19xNERZvA>

"History of ideas: Wabi Sabi" (8:42 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmHLYhxYVjA>

Optional Extension Activity

Invite students to visit Bosco Sodi's website (<https://www.boscossodi.com>) to view images of his work and exhibitions around the world.

There are also a number of videorecorded interviews with the artist. These can be viewed as a group during class time or individually by students who would like to learn more:

Artist Bosco Sodi Believes in the Healing Power of Color (ARTNews, 34:44)

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/artist-bosco-sodi-artnews-live-interview-1234579230/>

Emotive Power within the Essential Crudeness of Material (YouTube, 1:03:48)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJJJfI8Xbw0>

In the Studio with Bosco Sodi (ArtNet News, 6:30)

<https://news.artnet.com/in-the-studio/go-inside-artists-studio-bosco-sodi-watch-create-alchemical-paintings-1405090>

Inside Bosco Sodi's Studio (YouTube, 6:02)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIRN8gJZ1pk>

Special Learner Accommodations

Things to consider:

- Extra time for note-taking

- Translation dictionaries for ELLs
- Visually-rich PPT
- Graphic organizers
- Small group discussions/Cooperative learning
- Alternative assessment options

References

Artspace Editors. (2014). *Painter Bosco Sodi on embracing artistic accidents*. Artspace. https://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews_features/meet_the_artist/bosco_sodi_in_interview-52246

CoBo Social. (2021). *Five encounters with Antoni Tàpies by Bosco Sodi*. CoBo Social. <https://www.cobosocial.com/dossiers/five-encounters-with-antoni-tapiés-by-bosco-sodi/>

Martinez, A. (8 September 2017). Mexican Artist Bosco Sodi Built a Wall Faster Than Trump. *Observer*. <https://observer.com/2017/09/mexican-artist-bosco-sodi-built-a-wall-faster-than-trump/>

Palk, S. (2020). *Bosco Sodi biography*. Ocula. <https://ocula.com/artists/bosco-sodi>

Rees, L. (2020). *Bosco Sodi embraces the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi in quarantine*. Galerie. <https://galeriemagazine.com/bosco-sodi-quarantine-art-mexico/>

Sodi, B. (2021). *Bosco Sodi*. <https://www.boscossodi.com>

Tanizaki, J., Bonet, J. M., Hart, D., & Abrams, M. J. *Bosco Sodi*. Rizzoli Electa.

Topping, A. (9 July 2018). *Donald Trump to face 'carnival of resistance'*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jul/09/donald-trump-to-face-carnival-of-resistance>