



No-Kit

One or two periods in your classroom

Grades 1 through 8

Visual Arts, Language

No-Kit was the recipient of the 2005 Ontario Association of Art Galleries Educator Award.

Programme description

Art is an activity that consists in producing relationships to the world through signs, forms, gestures or objects.

- Nicolas Bourriaud, French curator and writer

No-Kit is a series of modules that encourages students to look at the classroom as an object by isolating the shapes, colours and textures found therein. These modules include cooperative games and challenges that require conscientious observations and slight manipulations of the classroom's material resources. The goal is to transform the usual understanding of the classroom environment. Gradually, the surroundings become an abstract geometric space filled with shapes and colours that are then used to create both an art installation and a sculpture. The programme's length can be tailored to best suit the students' grade level and the school's needs (1 or 2 classroom periods).

Artworks explored during the programme include a video, *Corpus Callosum* (2001), by Canadian artist Michael Snow; an "art recipe" by conceptual artist Alison Knowles entitled *Homage to Each Red Thing* (1997), and paintings by the 16th century Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

Learning goals

No-Kit engages participants in new ways of thinking about and making art, and invites students to observe their immediate environment more attentively. Unlike traditional approaches that celebrate individual achievement and product output, here expression is linked to improvisation and collaboration. The workshop breaks free from typical measures of art skill to promote adaptation and negotiation as motors for creativity. An amateur leads the session by emphasizing the students' experience as the starting point of the learning process. The students play a large part in how each session progresses, so each project is unique.

No-Kit is an ideal prelude for a full day of activities at Oakville Galleries, enabling students to transfer the critical reflection skills developed within the programme to an appreciation of contemporary gallery-based and public art.

Curriculum links

Visual Arts and Literacy

- *No-Kit* is a comprehensive exploration of the section **Knowledge of Elements** in the Grades 1 through 4 art curriculum. By identifying the elements of design within a familiar environment, students discover and describe characteristics and values related to colour, line, shape, form and texture.
- The **Critical Thinking** aspect of the curriculum is given more emphasis among students of Grades 4 through 8, through an exploration of the way elements of design are organized in a work of art to communicate feelings and to convey ideas. Through skilled questioning, the students can reflect, interpret, analyse and evaluate.
- *No-Kit*'s exploration of the **Creative Work** component of the art curriculum is unique. Students express their creativity and solve artistic problems both individually and collectively, using contemporary art practices as a source of inspiration.

Critical questions

- What is art?
- Who is an artist?
- How can art produce relationships to the world?

No-Kit is a programme offered with the support of the Halton District School Board (HDSB). Teachers from the HDSB are invited to contact Mary Baratto, Arts Consultant for more information about this partnership.