

## Arts In STEM

### Art Autobiography

Christi Hamilton

Throughout my life, art, and the arts, have been like a different language to me. I've found understanding art, and even artistic things, incredibly challenging. I understand math quite well. It's straightforward and logical to me. Science, similarly, follows patterns and rules (for the most part). Art has been a great question mark. I do not excel when it comes to artistic endeavors. I believe that this lack of innate ability on my part has caused me to avoid art in my classroom, simply because of my own personal discomfort with the medium. It is my great hope that my participation in this class will help me to overcome my aversion to art-based projects in class.

#### Recall:

I don't have great early memories involving art that I can recall. My mother is an incredibly artistic person and I know she always had many projects going on all the time, I just never had any real interest in them. I remember everything she did with my brother and the neighbor kids always being so messy. I never liked anything messy. Stuff got on my fingers or stuck to me in some way and we always had to wait to wash the sticky stuff off. Funny how art always ended up being sticky in my house. We never went to museums or galleries. I never had any exposure to "fine art". Perhaps my discomfort toward art might be different had my early exposure to it not included so much glue? I'm not indicting my mother in any way, of course. Kids love glue and art projects. I was/am just one of those kids/people who don't like glue.

Since I was young, I've had the chance to visit some museums and galleries as well as some exhibits. My appreciation for art has changed. While I do still struggle to understand art, I have come to find intrigue and beauty in it. I've learned that art is not just what you create in a kitchen with old noodles and glue, it's an expression of feeling and being. Art can be so many things but most of all, it's personal.

Reflect:

My experience with art has been less positive than I would have hoped. I find art intimidating, which is not a comfortable feeling for me at all. Art contains so many messages and so much that the artist meant to convey. I've been present during so many discussions where people see so much more than I could have ever found in a painting or a sculpture. I find myself wondering if the artist really ever meant all of the things everyone is attributing to them or if everyone's just gone a little bit crazy over a pretty painting. I find these deep analyses very off putting. Personally, I like a pretty painting just because it's a pretty painting.

Connect:

I believe art is very simply expression. It's a way to show a memory or a thought or a dream. People draw pictures of the things they have seen that have moved them. People sketch portraits of those they love. People paint murals of the ideas they have of what might await them in their future. People draw pictures to sway opinion. Art is connected to everything. It's communication and understanding.