Inside Art, Fall 2017 — *David Claerbout*

**Title**

*Looking at the Past and Present from Multiple Perspectives:*

*An Introduction to the Work of David Claerbout*

**Estimated Time for Completion of Lesson**

1 class period

**Concept/Main Idea of Lesson**

Students will be introduced to the work of artist David Claerbout. Using photography and video, Claerbout explores the themes of time and perspective.

**Intended Grade Levels**

Grades 9-12

**Infusion/Subject Areas**

Visual Arts

Social Studies

**Curriculum Standards**

*Next Generation Sunshine State Standards*

VISUAL ARTS

VA.912.C.1.2: Use critical-thinking skills for various contexts to develop, refine, and reflect on an artistic theme.

VA.912.C.3.1: Use descriptive terms and varied approaches in art analysis to explain the meaning or purpose of an artwork.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS.912.H.1.2: Describe how historical events, social context, and culture impact forms, techniques, and purposes of works in the arts, including the relationship between a government and its citizens.

*National Standards for Arts Education*

Visual Arts Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

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

Visual Arts Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

*National Council for the Social Studies*

Time, Continuity, and Change

People, Places, and Environments

Global Connections

*Common Core*

[VA.912.C.2.2](http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewStandard/Preview/4809): Assess the works of others, using established or derived criteria, to support conclusions and judgments about artistic progress.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.5](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCwQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.shmoop.com%2Fcommon-core-standards%2Fccss-ela-literacy-ccra-sl-5.html&ei=06XLVN-NEc-wyASG9IHwBA&usg=AFQjCNH2w2XsGgaAiW473bde8HoDAIO_bQ&sig2=8X3yIMOC4VT_3rCvPqs3ww): Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

**Instructional Objective**

The student will:

* become familiar with the work of artist David Claerbout;
* explain how Claerbout explores the themes of time and perspective in his work;
* develop visual critical analysis skills;
* develop and practice note-taking.

**Learning Activities Sequence**

**Attention-Getter (Critical Visual Analysis)**: Access the PowerPoint presentation and advance to slide 2 (“What’s happening in this picture?”). Allow students 1 minute to view and then respond in whole-class format. Repeat the process with slide 2 (“Let’s take a closer look… what’s going on?”) and slide 3 (“Even closer…”). Ask students to consider how angle and perspective impacted their perceptions of the work as a viewer.

**Learning Activity 1 (Video):** Access the video *Sections of a Happy Moment* (2007)

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2NVu8S7c7U>), having previously selected a 5-minute section of the video to show to students. Before showing the clip, explain to students that the complete work is a 25-minute video that loops repeatedly. The artist, David Claerbout, took thousands of photos of this event and included 180 of them in the video. It focuses on a moment in time in the life of a Chinese family in their courtyard. As the group of people watch the ball in mid-air, this moment in time is analyzed from a multitude of different angles and perspectives.

**Learning Activity 2 (Guided Note-Taking):** Progress through slides 6-20, allowing students to take notes about Claerbout’s biography, artistic style, and themes represented in his work. The Notes View of the slides include additional information on each of the works.

**Closure**: Access the last two slides of the PPT, introducing first the title of the work *The Quiet Shore* (2011), and then advancing to the slide containing three stills from the 36-minute video installation. Allow students to view each of the three stills, approximately 1 minute per still, asking them to write down any ideas, adjectives, or thoughts that some to mind as they view. Facilitate a wrap-up discussion by asking for volunteers to share their thoughts, asking additional questions such as:

* The artist set this work on the coastline of Brittany, France, famously known for having the strongest tides in Europe. How does this knowledge influence your perception of the work?
* How might *The Quiet Shore* (2011) evoke different reactions if it had been shot in color versus black-and-white film?
* How do you think each of the people shown in the three stills interacted with the beach environment? As a viewer, how do these different perspectives and viewpoints change your perception of the work?

**Evaluation**

Informally assess students’ engagement and comprehension of the material by noting level of participation, note-taking, and involvement in discussions.

**Optional Extension Activities**

Invite students to view the complete 25 minutes of the work, *Sections of a Happy Moment* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2NVu8S7c7U>). Have them take notes as they view, noting how their interpretation of the event changes as the perspective and angles change throughout the video.

Show the Claerbout’s 12-minute video*Travel* (<http://davidclaerbout.com/filter/work/Travel-1996-2013>). Claerbout was inspired to create this piece based on relaxation music he had heard. Ask students to consider how this visual work might induce relaxation.

**Materials and Resources**

* Paper and pencil/pen
* Computer with MS PowerPoint and Internet connection
* PPT: *Day 1.Shifting Between Past and Present*
* Projection screen and projector
* External speakers

**Internet Links**

<http://davidclaerbout.com/>

<http://www.nca-g.com/artist/david_claerbout/>

<http://www.artnet.com/galleries/sean-kelly-gallery/artist-david-claerbout/>

**References**

Claerbout, D. (2017). *David Claerbout*. Retrieved from: <http://davidclaerbout.com>.

Cooper, A. (2014). *David Claerbout Joins Sean Kelly Stable*. Retrieved from: <http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2014/06/03/david-claerbout-joins-sean-kelly-stable/>.

WideWalls. (2017). *David Claerbout.* Retrieved from:<http://www.widewalls.ch/artist/david-claerbout/artworks>.

# Woodward, R.B. (2016). David Claerbout, LIGHT/WORK @Sean Kelly. *Collector Daily.* Retrieved from: <https://collectordaily.com/david-claerbout-lightwork-sean-kelly/>.