# BARBARA T. SMITH: PROOF

ARTransmissions serves as a visual aid to reach a deeper understanding of selected artworks exhibited at the museum. Students look carefully at Barbara T. Smith's double self-portrait "Proof". They share thoughts about what they see, what ideas the artwork inspires, and identify inspiration for creating artworks of their own.

Listed below are the California Department of Education Visual Art Standards that apply to ARTransmissions's grade level inquiry questions and projects.

### **GRADES K - 2**

#### INQUIRY

- Explore Proof. Describe the colors, lines, textures, and expressions in the artwork.
- What tools did the artist use? What moods does the work suggest?

#### **PROJECT**

- Print large B&W photos of children's faces on pastel copy paper.
- Supply markers or crayons. Ask students to create a mood for their portraits by adding lines and shapes inspired by Smith's colored markings.

# **KINDERGARTEN**

CREATING. ANCHOR STANDARD 1. Generate and Conceptualize Artistic Ideas and Work

- 1.1 Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.

  K.VA:Cr1.1 Engage in exploration and imaginative play with various arts materials.
- 2.1 Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.

K.VA:Cr2.1 Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world. K.VA:Re7.2 Describe what an image represents.
- RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work
  K.VA:Re8 Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.

# **FIRST GRADE**

CREATING. ANCHOR STANDARD 1. Generate and Conceptualize Artistic Ideas and Work

- 1.2 Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals.
  - 1.VA:Cr2.1 Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.

CREATING. ANCHOR STANDARD 2. Organize and Develop Artistic Ideas and Work

- 2.1 Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
  - 1.VA:Cr2.1 Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work

8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
1.VA:Re8 Interpret art by categorizing subject matter and identifying the mood and characteristics of form.

### SECOND GRADE

**CREATING. ANCHOR STANDARD 1. Generate and Conceptualize Artistic Ideas and Work** 

- 1.1 Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
  - 2.VA:Cr1.1 Brainstorm to generate multiple approaches to an art or design problem.
- 1.2 Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals.
  - 2.VA:Cr1.2 Make art or design with various art materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

**RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work** 

- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.
- RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work
  - 8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
    - 2.VA:Cr8 Interpret art by identifying the mood suggested by a work of art and describing relevant subject matter and characteristics of form.

# **GRADES 3 - 5**

#### **INQUIRY**

- · Proof depicts two self-portraits. Describe the two different versions of the artist that you see in front of you.
- Compare how elements like color, line, shadows, and patterns impact what each portrait communicates.

#### **PROJECT**

- With small mirrors, pencils, and drawing paper, invite students to draw self-portraits.
- Using colored pencils, students can create a background filled with words, patterns, shapes, and lines expressing
  personal qualities.

# **THIRD GRADE**

### CREATING. ANCHOR STANDARD 2. Organize and Develop Artistic Ideas and Work

- 2.1 Artists and designers experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
  - 3.VA:Cr2.1 Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
- 2.3 People create and interact with objects, places, and design, and this defines, shapes, enhances, and empowers their lives.

# RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

- 7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.

  3.VA:7.1 Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.
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  3.VA:7.1 Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

#### **RESPONDING.** Anchor Standard 8: Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work

8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
3.VA:Re8 Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, characteristics of form, and mood.

### **FOURTH GRADE**

### CREATING. Anchor Standard 1. Generate and Conceptualize Artistic Ideas and Work

1.1 Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
4.VA:Cr1.1 Brainstorm individual and collaborative approaches to a creative art or design problem.

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

7.2 Visual imagery influences understanding of and responses to the world.
4.VA:Re7.2 Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages.

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work.

- 8.2 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
   4.VA:Re8 Interpret art by referring to contextual information and analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media.
- CONNECTING. ANCHOR STANDARD 10. Synthesize and Relate Knowledge and Personal Experiences to Make Art

  10 Through artmaking, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.

## **FIFTH GRADE**

# **RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work**

- 7.2 Visual imagery influences understanding of and responses to the world.
  5.VA:Re7.2 Identify and analyze cultural associations suggested by visual imagery
- RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work.
  - People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.

    5.VA:Re8 Interpret art by analyzing characteristics of form and structure, contextual information, subject matter, visual elements, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.

# RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 9. Apply Criteria to Evaluate Artistic Work

- 9 People evaluate art based on various criteria.
  - 5.VA:Re9 Recognize differences in criteria used to evaluate works of art depending on styles, genres, and media as well as historical and cultural contexts.

# CONNECTING. ANCHOR STANDARD 10. Synthesize and Relate Knowledge and Personal Experiences to Make Art

Through artmaking, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge, and experiences.

### **GRADES 6 - 8**

#### **INQUIRY**

- · Identify which aspects of Proof are mechanically reproduced and which are made by hand.
- Discuss each technique and what happens when they are combined.

#### **PROJECT**

- Investigate Xerox artwork made by Barbara T. Smith in the 1960s as well as other artists who incorporate this tool
  into their work.
- For Smith, access to printing was freeing. Analyze ways in which digital image-making can be a liberating means
  of artistic expression.

### SIXTH GRADE

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.
  - 6.VA:Re.7.2 Analyze ways that visual components and cultural associations suggested by images influence ideas, emotions, and actions

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work.

- 8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
  - 6.VA:Re8 Interpret art by distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant contextual information and analyzing subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 9. Apply Criteria to Evaluate Artistic Work

9 People evaluate art based on various criteria.

# **SEVENTH GRADE**

# **RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work**

- 7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work.

8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
7.VA:Re8 Interpret art by analyzing art-making approaches, the characteristics of form and structure, relevant contextual information, subject matter, and use of media to identify ideas an

relevant contextual information, subject matter, and use of media to identify ideas an mood conveyed.

# **RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 9. Apply Criteria to Evaluate Artistic Work**

9 People evaluate art based on various criteria.

### **EIGHTH GRADE**

### RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

- 7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.
  - 8.VA:Re7.2 Compare and contrast contexts and media in which viewers encounter images that influence ideas, emotions, and actions.

# RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work.

- 8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
  - 8.VA:Re8 Interpret art by analyzing how the interaction of subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, use of media, art- making approaches, and relevant contextual information contributes to understanding messages or ideas and mood conveyed.

# RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 9. Apply Criteria to Evaluate Artistic Work

- 9 People evaluate art based on various criteria.
  - 8.VA:Re9 Create a convincing and logical argument to support an evaluation of art.

### **GRADES 9 - 12**

#### **INQUIRY**

- Investigate Barbara T. Smith's art through a feminist lens.
- Discuss ways in which her work demonstrates that the personal is political.

#### **PROJECT**

- Research and select a contemporary artist whose work uses technology to comment on gender roles.
- · Analyze and compare an artwork by your selected artist with an artwork by Smith.

# **NINTH-TWELFTH GRADE: PROFICIENT**

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work

- 7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments. Prof.VA:Re7.1 Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences.
- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work

People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.

Prof.VA:Re8 Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts.

CONNECTING. Anchor Standard 11. Relate Artistic Ideas and Works with Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context to Deepen Understanding

11 People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.
Prof.VA:Cn11 Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art.

### **NINTH-TWELFTH GRADE: ACCELERATED**

PRESENTING. ANCHOR STANDARD 6. Convey Meaning Through the Presentation of Artistic Work
Pr6 Make, explain, and justify connections between artists or artwork and social, cultural, and political history.

- RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work
  7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments
  - 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.

Acc.Re7.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of an image or images to influence ideas, feelings, and behaviors of specific audiences.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work

- 8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
  - Acc.VA:Re8 Identify types of contextual information useful in the process of constructing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works.

CONNECTING. Anchor Standard 11. Relate Artistic Ideas and Works with Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context to Deepen Understanding

- 11 People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.
  - Acc.VA:Cn11 Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural, and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary, local, and global contexts.

### **NINTH-TWELFTH GRADE: ADVANCED**

**RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work** 

- 7.1 Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.
- 7.2 Visual imagery influence understanding of and responses to the world.

Adv.VA:Re7.2 Determine the commonalities within a group of artists or visual images attributed to a particular type of art, timeframe, or culture.

RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 8. Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work

- 8 People gain insights into meanings of artworks by engaging in the process of art criticism.
  - Adf.VA:Re8 Analyze differing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works in order to select and defend a plausible critical analysis.

**RESPONDING. ANCHOR STANDARD 7. Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work** 

- 9 People evaluate art based on various criteria.
  - Adv. VAPRe9 Construct evaluations of a work of art or collection of works based on differing sets of criteria.

CONNECTING. Anchor Standard 11. Relate Artistic Ideas and Works with Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context to Deepen Understanding

- 11 People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.
  - Adv.VA:Cn11 Assess the impact of an artist or a group of artists on the beliefs, values, and behaviors of a society.