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Transformation through Art Education

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Art Education fosters creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Studio methods facilitate transformation and effects change. This presentation showcases research conducted by students enrolled in the Elementary Art Education Studio Methods course; students addressed the unit concept: Transformation. Students embraced the topic and researched methods through meaning-making in the form of lesson plans, studio projects and exemplars that addressed change.

Art for a Better World: Form and Function  
By Rebekah Sternbach (Mentor: Patti Edwards and Peggy Powers)

It’s important that children learn that they can effect change in their environments. In this project, students identified a community or world problem and designed an art-based solution. Students explored techniques and methods for executing this solution and used critical thinking to evaluate its effectiveness. This research was conducted with learners, in the community, at “The Y on Granby Street”; Norfolk VA.

Transformations: Ordinary to Extraordinary  
By Kristen Emerson, Mary Lauren Stump (Mentor: Patti Edwards)

Through the art lesson plan, students gain an understanding of the importance of proper trash disposal and how it affects our environment. They will also discover a new perspective of garbage by taking what was considered trash and transforming it into something new and beautiful. The lesson plan and portfolio samples highlight taking the ‘ordinary’ and creating something ‘extraordinary’.

Processes  
By Brooke Grabowski (Mentor: Pattie Edwards)

Through research, the university student discovered that it became important to incorporate materials into the artwork so children would gain a better understanding of careers in printmaking, while requiring students to reflect and create images of local watershed resources. The research includes exemplars that embrace studio methods for meaning-making in art education and an art lesson plan designed for students to explore, envision and create through a series of prints. Processes are explored with step-by-step procedures as students learn the process of relief printing.

Reclaimed Toys  
By Jasper Little (Patti Edwards)

If you could have any super power, what would it be? This research addresses an understanding and application of media, techniques, and processes to support the building of a character that communicates individuality and differences. This plan utilizes the VA Standards of Learning including the aim that students will use subjects, themes and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of context, values and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artwork.