

# BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



**Betye Saar**

American, born in Los Angeles, California (1926- )

*Cryptic Confessions, The Question*, 1988

Mixed media assemblage, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Permanent Collection 2000.106

Gift of Mimi Livingston

# BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



## Betye Saar

American, born in Los Angeles, California (1926- )

*Cryptic Confessions, The Question*, 1988

Mixed media assemblage, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Permanent Collection 2000.106

Gift of Mimi Livingston

## Visual Arts

**Skill:** critical analysis

**Motivation:** Museum trip

**Materials:** chart paper

**Vocabulary:** critical analysis, assemblage, realistic, abstract, symmetry

(An assemblage is a three-dimensional composition made of various materials such as found objects, paper, metal, wood and textiles.)

## Visual Arts Standards Grades 6-8

VA.68.C.1.2/VA.68.C.1.3/VA.68.C.2.3/VA.68.C.2.4/VA.68.C.3.1/VA.68.C.3.3/VA.68.H.1.1

VA.68.H.1.3/VA.68.H.1.4/VA.68.H.3.1/VA.68.H.3.2/VA.68.O.3.2/VA.68.S.1.1

## Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.L.3.6/LAFS.6.W.1.1/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.RI.1.2/LAFS.6.W.1.1
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.L.3.6/LAFS.7.W.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.1.2/LAFS.7.W.1.1
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.L.3.6/LAFS.8.W.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.1.2/LAFS.8.W.1.1

## Procedure:

- Define and discuss critical analysis.
- Introduce or review the vocabulary.
- Discuss the definition of mixed media assemblage.
- Discuss and explain the concepts of realistic and abstract art.
- Is the assemblage more realistic or more abstract?
- Inform the students that the artist was born in Los Angeles, California.
- Elicit information about California from the class (location, climate, capital city).
- Ask the class to identify the objects in the assemblage.
- Why do you suppose the artist chose these particular objects?
- Have the group describe the colors (bright, dull or warm or cool).
- Do the colors affect your mood in any way (cheerful, calm or not at all)?
- What kind of mood do you suppose the artist was in when she created this assemblage?
- Discuss the assemblage in terms of lines (straight, curvy, diagonal).
- Ask for a description of the shapes (rectangles, circles, diamonds).

**Summary:** Ask for a brief critique of the work (I liked or disliked the assemblage because ...).

**Follow Up:** Make a list of items you would use to tell something about your family.

# BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



## Betye Saar

American, born in Los Angeles, California (1926- )

*Cryptic Confessions, The Question*, 1988

Mixed media assemblage, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Permanent Collection 2000.106

Gift of Mimi Livingston

## Language Arts

**Skill:** Vocabulary - adjectives

**Motivation:** Museum trip

**Materials:** index cards

**Vocabulary:** adjective, noun, category, classify, evoke

## Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.L.3.6/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.RL.1.2/LAFS.6.RI.1.2
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.L.3.6/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.RL.1.2/LAFS.7.RI.1.2
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.L.3.6/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RL.1.2/LAFS.8.RI.1.1

**Aim:** How do we describe *Cryptic Confessions, The Question* by Betye Saar?

**I Can Statement:** I can use adjectives to describe *Cryptic Confessions, The Question* by Betye Saar?

## Procedure:

- Define adjectives: an adjective is a word that describes a noun.
- Review nouns: nouns are people, places or things.
- Give a few examples of adjectives and elicit a few more from the class.
- Introduce/review and discuss the vocabulary.
- Record the following elicited adjectives on index cards:
  - a) texture (smooth, rough, thick, soft or hard).
  - b) shapes (circles, rectangles, circles.).
  - c) colors (bright, dull, warm or cool).
  - d) moods evoked by the sculpture (happy, sad, playful or none at all.).
  - e) lines (straight, curvy or diagonal).
  - f) motion or energy (direction, intensity, etc.).
  - g) background (color, designs, shapes).
- Have the children classify the adjectives on the index cards into categories.

**Summary:** List adjectives describing the classroom.

**Follow Up:** Write five sentences describing a sculpture or statue in your house or classroom.

# BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



## Betye Saar

American, born in Los Angeles, California (1926- )

*Cryptic Confessions, The Question*, 1988

Mixed media assemblage, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Permanent Collection 2000.106

Gift of Mimi Livingston

## Creative/Journal Writing Suggestions

- Write about an assemblage that you would create.
- Predict what the artist might create next.
- Write a review of the work.
- Write a letter to a friend/relative describing the artwork.
- Write a letter to the artist.
- Write a poem about the assemblage or the artist.
- Explain how the piece made you feel.
- Did the piece remind you of something or some place in your life?
- Would you change anything in the work? Add or remove anything?
- Would you recommend the work to a friend?
- Explain why or why not you would like to see more of the artist's work.
- Pretend you are an art dealer; persuade a customer to purchase the art work.
- Use the work of art in an advertisement to represent a product.
- Create a logo for a sports team, a business or a musical group
- Compose a jingle about the assemblage or about the artist.
- Choose a musical group that could be represented by this work of art.
- Make a list of questions you would ask the artist during an interview.
- Give the assemblage a new title and explain why you chose the new name.
- In which room of your house would you install this assemblage and why?

## Florida Standards

- Grade 6: LAFS.6.W.1.1/LAFS.6.RI.2.6/LAFS.6.RL.1.1/LAFS.6.W.1.2
- Grade 7: LAFS.7.W.1.1/LAFS.7.RI.2.6/LAFS.7.RI.1.1/LAFS.7.W.1.2
- Grade 8: LAFS.8.W.1.1/LAFS.8.RI.2.6/LAFS.8.RI.1.1/LAFS.8.RL.1.2

# BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART



## Betye Saar

American, born in Los Angeles, California (1926- )

*Cryptic Confessions, The Question*, 1988

Mixed media assemblage, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Permanent Collection 2000.106

Gift of Mimi Livingston

## Math Suggestions

- Have the students draw a polygon with the same dimensions as the work.
- Identify and define the characteristics of the shapes observed in this figure.
- Convert the inches into metric measurement.
- Describe and explain any observable patterns.
- Estimate the weight of the work in both standard and metric measurement.
- Use non-standard measurement as a method to measure the piece (pencil, finger, foot).
- Find the volume.
- Calculate the elapsed time between the birth of the artist and the present; convert the years into months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds.
- Calculate the elapsed time between the creation of the print and the present; convert the years into months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds.
- Calculate the artist's age when he completed this image; convert the years into months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds.
- Classify the numbers as even or odd.
- Estimate the percentage of the assemblage that is blue and the percentage that is bronze.
- List objects that are approximately the same size as the assemblage.
- Find the longitude and the latitude of the artist's birth city.

## Florida Standards

- Grade 6: MAFS.6.G.1.1/MAFS.6.G.1.3
- Grade 7: MAFS.7.G.1.3/MAFS.7.NS.1.3/MAFS.7.G.2.6/MAFS.7.G.1.2