Youth Peace Art Exhibition and Traveling Peace Exhibitions

Lesson Plan:
What Does Peace Look Like?

Envisioning the World We Want

Overview:
This lesson plan is designed to have students create a work of art that will be part of the international Youth Peace Art Exhibition at The Delaware Contemporary museum in Wilmington, Delaware in September 2018 and the Traveling Peace Exhibitions from November 2018 through May 2019. One of the purposes of this lesson is to get youth thinking about peace, the world they want to live in, and what that world looks like.

Age/Grades: K-12

Materials needed: Paper (size—8.5 x 11 inches, 12 x 16 inches, or 16 x 20 inches); art supplies—colored pens, pencils, water colors, etc. Use whatever you think your students are comfortable with or what you want to teach them how to use.

Class Period(s) Needed: One period of at least 30 minutes for class discussion. Additional class periods as warranted for art production.

Procedure:
1. Ask students, “What is peace?” Write their responses on white board or newsprint. Have a discussion about the meanings of peace on Earth. Continue this discussion by then asking, “What kind of world do you want to live in?” Depending on the age of your students and the time you have, other questions you could ask are: Is peace just the
absence of war and violence (negative peace) or is it more—like everyone living in harmony, having their basic needs met, and basic rights respected (positive peace). Why is peace on Earth important? Why is it important locally? What can you do to make peace a reality?

2. Ask students, “What does peace look like? And “What does the world you want to live in look like?” Lead them in a brief discussion of this. And then:

3. Have your students draw a picture of Peace. If you have the time, have this image be a first draft. Have students finish their drawing in the time you have allocated.

4. Have students write a short (two to three sentence) explanation of their art work. What were they drawing a picture of? What does their picture mean?

5. Discussion: Have students explain their vision of peace to the class. What is similar in the various drawings? What is different? Additional discussion questions: What could they do to make their vision of peace real? What can we do to make the world we want?

6. Collect student’s finished art and written explanations, make sure the student’s name is on the art and send it to: Pacem in Terris, 401 N. West St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Or, if you are out of state or the country, photograph each artwork and email it to Pacem in Terris at peaceart@depacdminterris.org