



*Visual and
Performing Arts*

Unit One



The “Four To Know” project is an elementary curriculum designed by the Riverside County Office of Education Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), to introduce students to four of today’s most intriguing and engaging artists. They are a diverse group of two men and two women, who have collectively created art that is autobiographical, political, cultural and social justice oriented. By learning about them as people, and the work they produce, we will understand the role of art in making meaning out of life, utilizing the artistic processes of **relating** and **connecting**. We will also culminate our learning experience with an art project that is both individually representative and collaboratively oriented.

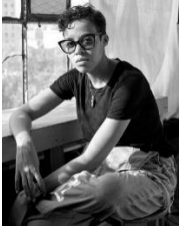
Banksy – Political – Spray Paint



Banksy is an anonymous (meaning no one knows who he or she really is) England-based street artist, vandal, political activist, and film director. His/her street art combines humor with graffiti executed in a distinctive stenciling technique. His/her works of political and social commentary have been featured on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world. Banksy's work grew out of the underground art scene which involved collaborations between artists and musicians. Banksy says that he/she was inspired by 3D, a graffiti artist who later became a founding member of the English musical group Massive Attack.



Jordan Casteel – Social Justice - Painting



Jordan Casteel is an artist who lives and works in New York City. She has focused on paintings of black men, and her emphasis is on their individuality and humanity. She is interested in civil rights and social justice through her work. In her large-scale portraits, the subjects look you in the eye. She had her first solo show in 2014, three months after she graduated from Yale University with her Master's degree in Fine Art.



YAYOI KUSAMA – Autobiographical – Painting, Sculpture and Mixed Media



Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese artist, who from an early age was prone to hallucinations due to mental illness. She seeks to portray vivid experiences of the world distorted and enhanced by colors and shapes. Ultimately, it was in installation where Kusama found a way to best express the impact of her interior mind on her external environment. *Infinity Mirrored Room*, is just such an inhabitable Kusama world.



Armando Lerma – Cultural – Painting and Mixed Media



In 2011, artist Armando Lerma (formerly of the Date Farmers artist duo) started Coachella Walls. Over the past three years, it has developed into an essential, ongoing arts driven community revitalization project, focused towards the uplifting of a low income, marginalized community in Downtown Coachella’s Historic Pueblo Viejo District. “Coachella Walls” is dedicated “to the anonymous farmworker.”



Art Lesson

Homage to Yayoi Kusama's Pumpkins

Materials: Black construction paper, pastels or chalk, fixative or hairspray

Have students use a white pastel to first draw a segmented pumpkin shape, including a stem and adding dots to each panel. Then, have them fill the background space with triangular shapes, all attached to one another. Finally, have students select bright colors for each of the pumpkin's segments, while taking care not to color on the white lines or the interior of the black dots. When finished, spray with hairspray or fixative to prevent smearing of the artwork.

