



## Unit Three



The “Four To Know” project is an elementary curriculum designed by Riverside County Office of Education VAPA, to introduce students to four intriguing and engaging artists, past and present. They are a diverse group of two men and two women, who have collectively created art that is autobiographical, whimsical, cultural and environmental. 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**. After studying artwork created from a variety of mediums, our learning experience will also culminate with an art project that is both individually representative and collaboratively oriented.

## Merritt Johnson – Autobiographical – Textile



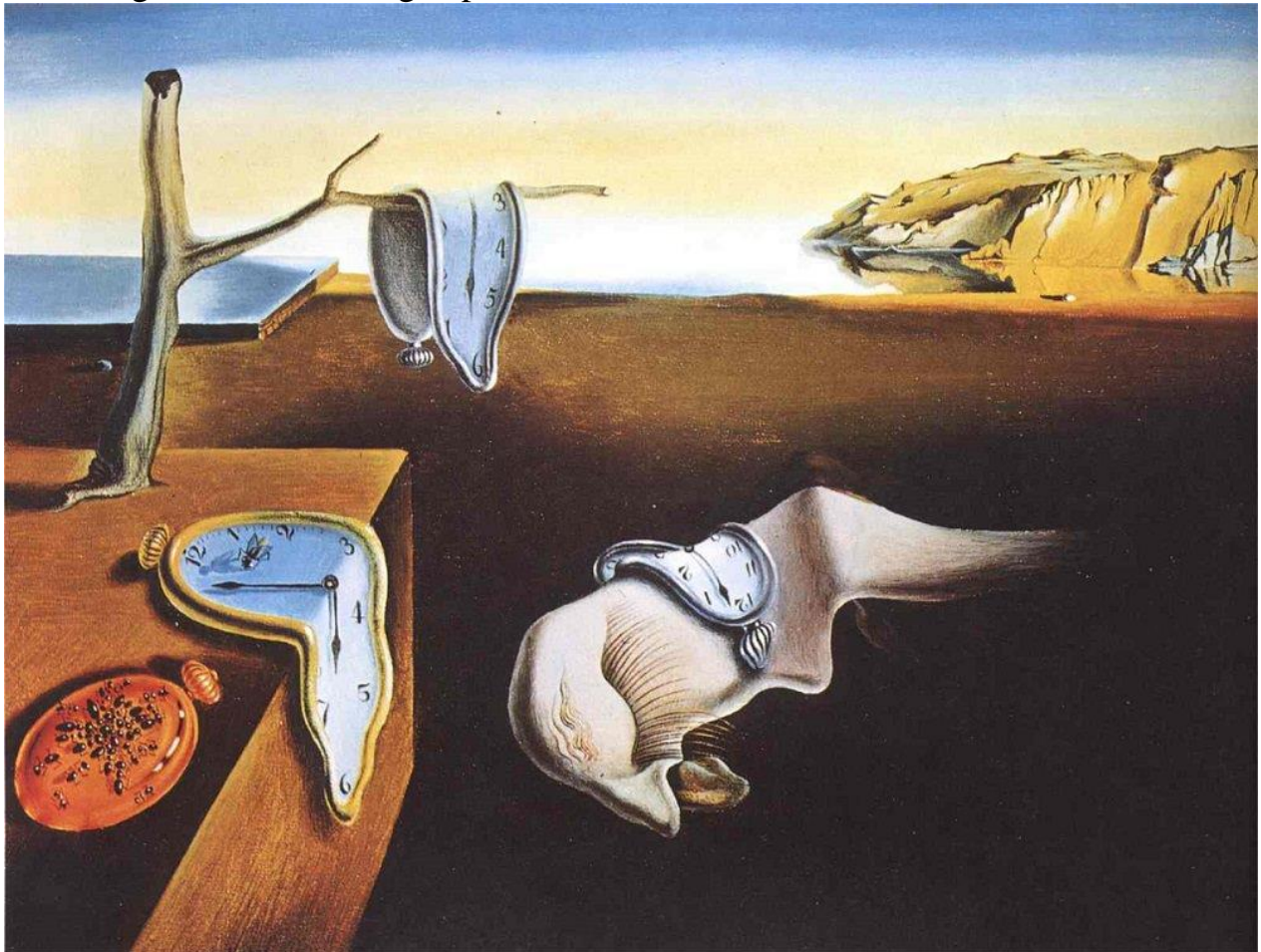
Johnson, who is Mohawk and Blackfoot, is a multidisciplinary artist whose work feels simultaneously familiar and distinct, both approachable and demanding. Her work is full of subtleties, allusions and challenges that invite the viewer into deeper, denser conversations about social camouflage and protection, community and humans' relationship with land. This can be seen in her work, which often features natural and organic elements, like fur and shells, as well as familiar iconography portrayed in unconventional media. One of the most powerful messages in her art has to do with the complex relationship between U.S. and Native history.



## Salvador Dali – Whimsical – Painting



Salvador Dali was a Spanish Surrealist artist renowned for his technical skill, precise draftsmanship and the striking and bizarre images in his work. Born in Figueres, Catalonia, Dalí received his formal education in fine arts at Madrid. Influenced by Impressionism and the Renaissance masters from a young age, he became increasingly attracted to Cubism and avant-garde movements. He moved closer to Surrealism in the late 1920s and joined the Surrealist group in 1929, soon becoming one of its leading exponents.



## Andy Warhol – Cultural - Multimedia



Andy Warhol was an American artist, film director, and producer who was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, advertising, and celebrity culture that flourished by the 1960s, and span a variety of media, including painting, silk screening, photography, film, and sculpture. Some of his best known works include the silkscreen paintings *Campbell's Soup Cans* (1962) and *Marilyn Diptych* (1962).



## Ronnie Nicole – Environmental - Ceramics



(In the artist's own words)...Hi. Thanks for stopping by. I create what I love to call "Floral Inspired Fossils." For as long as I can remember, I've always had a connection with flowers. I'm consumed by all the little details within their design. Even from a young child I can remember drawing them, pressing them, drying them, basically any arts and crafty thing I could think of to do with flowers I did. My floral obsession took me on a journey that would eventually lead me here. I finally feel I've found the perfect way to collect all the subtle details of the flower that I wasn't able to do in any of my other art practices.



## Art Lesson

Homage to Salvador Dali's melting clocks

*Materials: Paper plates, tempura (of any kind) paint, construction paper, glue*

Directions: Crumple up a paper plate and bend it into a wavy pattern. Paint around the outside of the ridged portion of the plate. Paint 2 clock arms (1 large, 1 small) and a circle onto a piece of construction paper, in the same color used to paint the plate, then cut out. Glue the clock arms onto the center of the plate with the circle in the center, connecting the two arms. Cut numbers out of different colors of construction paper. Make them skewed or wavy. Glue them around the plate, making sure they are not placed too perfectly. Let dry and display your melting clock!

