**Teaching Guide**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the Teacher Guide for Medium Photo! This guide is designed to provide educators with resources and activities to engage students in the exploration of photography through Medium Photo's ongoing events.

**Our Mission**

The mission of Medium is to *connect us through photography and celebrate its power to transcend boundaries*. Beyond mission statements and time clocks, we passionately care about every individual’s experience at Medium. We love what we do, and it shows! We ask reviewers to embody this spirit while at Medium to help us maintain an environment of creative excellence.

**Event Overview**

Medium Photo hosts a series of events to celebrate and explore the world of photography. During the Medium Festival, there are several ticketed and free events where students can engage with artists through exhibitions, talks, and more. Check the website for details.

* Present Tense Artist Talks:
  + Quarterly events featuring selected photographers presenting their work in an informal setting followed by a Q&A session. Moderated by Medium Photo.
* Size Matters Exhibition:
  + Annual exhibition celebrating photo-based artwork smaller than 10 inches. Showcases a diverse range of works including traditional prints, digital art, and sculptures.
  + April 2-27, 2024 at Athenaeum Art Center San Diego
* Film Screenings at Digital Gym:
  + Film screenings held at Digital Gym, offering additional visual experiences during the Medium Festival of Photography.
* Keynote Lecture:
  + Ticketed event featuring a keynote lecture during the Medium Festival of Photography.

**Guiding Questions**

To encourage critical thinking and discussion, here are some guiding questions for classroom use:

* What role does creating a portfolio and participating in portfolio reviews serve in the creative process?
* Compare and contrast the commercial and fine art fields of photography. How do they overlap, and what similarities exist in their practice and process?
* Why is it important to nurture a community of artists and hold space for discussions?

**Ideas to Think About After**

After engaging in the events and discussions, consider the following activities:

* Summarize the theme or topic of the film, lecture, exhibition, or body of work you experienced. Share what you learned, liked best, or have questions about.
* Reflect on your experience during the event. How can you apply what you’ve learned to your work as an artist?
* Select an artist from the event and analyze their work and style. Choose a piece for detailed interpretation, analysis, and evaluation. Make connections to other artists, both historical and contemporary.
* Compare and contrast the work of two artists featured in the events or exhibitions. Identify similarities and differences, discussing aesthetic qualities and the meaning of their work.

**Ideas to Think About After**

*You will work two of the proposed sessions (12 reviews) per day.*

**SESSION 1 SESSION 2 SESSION 3**

9:00 – 9:20 11:50 – 12:10 2:40 – 3:00

9:20 – 9:40 12:10 – 12:30 3:00 – 3:20

9:50 – 10:10 12:40 – 1:00 3:30 – 3:50

10:10 – 10:30 1:00 – 1:20 3:50 – 4:10

10:40 – 11:00 1:30 – 1:50 4:30 – 4:50

11:00 – 11:20 1:50 – 2:10

Break Break End

**Activity Extensions**

Extend learning beyond the events with these activity ideas:

* Create digital portfolio presentations inspired by the Present Tense series and present them to the class in a similar format.
* Organize a portfolio review session with a panel of community reviewers or encourage student peer feedback.
* Curate a small works group show inspired by Size Matters, involving students in the selection and exhibition process.
* Assign students to research an artist, create a body of work inspired by their themes, and present their findings to the class.

**Resources**

Stay updated and deepen your understanding of photography with these recommended resources:

* Galleries, museums, websites, stores?

**Assessment Tools**