

Student Visual Arts Exhibition: Artwork

INTRODUCTION - The Autry Museum of the American West is a museum located in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California. The Autry Museum's **mission** is to bring together the stories of all peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inspire our shared future. One of the ways that the Autry Museum tells stories about the diverse peoples of the American West is through objects. Objects can be **artifacts** or artwork. Since 2016, the Autry Museum has invited students in grades 6 through 12 to tell their own stories through artwork by submitting their own **two-dimensional (2D)** artwork to the Student Visual Arts **Exhibition**. The Autry Museum displays selected student artwork in the museum during its Student Visual Arts Exhibition each year as shown in the image below. If you are interested in submitting your artwork for this year's Student Visual Arts Exhibition, the activities in this lesson will help guide you through the artwork part of the submissions process.



This image was taken at the 8th Annual Student Visual Arts Exhibition titled *Visions of Freedom* on April 20, 2024. Photo credit: Alejandra Martinez @0.ale.m2/Las Fotos Project.

Glossary

Artifacts: objects made by people

Exhibition: a display of artifacts and/or artwork

Mission: a person, group of people, or organization's purpose

Two-dimensional (2D): something that is flat and has length and width

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PART 1 - The **theme** for the upcoming Student Visual Arts Exhibition is *Visions of Humanity*. When you think of the word “humanity,” what images, phrases, and/or words pop into your mind? Write these images, phrases, and/or words in the space provided or on a separate document.

Humanity: Images, Phrases, and/or Words

Glossary
Theme: topic

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PART 2 - The word “humanity” has many meanings. Learn more about the word “humanity” by researching its different meanings using a dictionary, an online dictionary, and/or another **source**. After researching, write the different meanings of the word “humanity” in the space provided or on a separate document. Please **cite** your sources.

A) _____

Source: _____

B) _____

Source: _____

C) _____

Source: _____

D) _____

Source: _____

E) _____

Source: _____

Glossary

Cite: to give credit to

Source: a piece of evidence like a primary or secondary source

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PART 3 - Learn even more about the word “humanity” by reading the additional information that the Autry Museum has provided about this year’s theme: *Visions of Humanity*.

ABOUT THE THEME: *VISIONS OF HUMANITY*

Humanity means all people and the things that make us human—our ideas, feelings, and actions. Humanity is more than just people—it is the shared spirit, creativity, and compassion that connect us all. Across the American West, humanity has never been perfect. Still, it has been powerful because of our ability to dream of something better and to work together to make it real. Every generation has added its voices to the ongoing story of the American West. Your vision of humanity, how you see the world and the people in it, has the power to inspire change and remind us of what it means to be human. What is your vision of humanity? How do we express who we are? What do we value? How do we care for one another? How do we show kindness and sympathy towards one another?

The Autry Museum of the American West invites students to submit original artwork for the tenth annual Student Visual Arts Exhibition: *Visions of Humanity*. We look forward to sharing your art at the museum.

After researching and learning about the different meanings that the word “humanity” has, think about what the word “humanity” means to you. Write what the word “humanity” means to you in the space provided or on a separate document.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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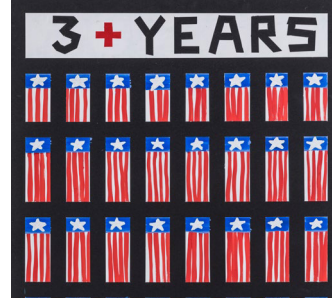
PART 4 - Before you tell a story about what the word “humanity” means to you through a two-dimensional artwork, you will explore different types of artwork. Artwork can be collages, drawings, graphic prints, mixed media, paintings, photographs, and so much more. Learn more about some of the various types of artwork by looking at images from the Autry Museum’s **collection** and reading their descriptions.



Basket: a 3D artwork created by weaving plants and sometimes other materials together



Ceramic: a 3D artwork made of material like clay that is hard from heat



Collage: an artwork created by attaching various materials to a surface that is flat



Drawing: a 2D picture of something using chalk, crayons, markers, pencils, or pens



Mixed media: an artwork that incorporates more than one type of medium



Painting: a 2D picture of something using paint



Photograph: a 2D picture of something taken with a camera



Print: a 2D work of art created by copying a picture from a surface with ink to another material



Sculpture: a 3D artwork made out of materials that are used in an interesting way



Video: a recording of visual images that may include audio

Glossary

Collection: a group of items that have been collected to study or to show to people

Medium: the materials used to create artwork; the various types of artistic expression

3D: something that is solid and has length, width, and height

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PART 5 - After learning about different types of artwork, plan your artwork before creating it by answering the questions in the chart below. Write detailed answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	ARTWORK PLAN ANSWERS
What will your artwork be about? What story will your artwork tell about the word “humanity”? Be specific.	You can tell a story about what the word “humanity” means to you by showing one or more of the following in your artwork: Animals Landforms People Places Plants Types of Water Other Things	
What type of 2D artwork will you create?	Collage Drawing Graphic Print Mixed Media Painting Photograph Other Artwork	
What materials will you use to create your artwork?	Adhesives Markers Camera Paint Canvas Paintbrushes Chalk Paper Charcoal Pastels Colored Pencils Pencils Crayons Pens Cray-Pas Other Materials Ink	
What else will you include in your artwork?	Colors Lines Patterns Shapes Words Other Elements	
What will the dimensions of your artwork be?	5X7 Inches 8X10 Inches 11X14 Inches 16X20 Inches 20X30 Inches 22X32 Inches	

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PART 5 CONTINUED - Using your artwork plan from the previous page, make a sketch (a simple and quick drawing) of what your artwork will look like in the space provided or on a separate document.

PART 6 - Using your artwork plan and your sketch from PART 5, create your artwork.

PART 7 - Submit your artwork to the Autry Museum using the following instructions, schedule, and guidelines:
<https://www.theautry.org/education/student-visual-arts-exhibition>.