

GLUCK FELLOWSHIP DIGITAL DIY CURRICULUM SYLLABUS 2020-2021

EDUCATION | HEALTH | CULTURE | CREATIVITY

Introduce | Inspire | Involve | Impact

Fellow Name: Rebekkah Hart

Department: Art History

Title: Becoming Visually Literate: Reading and Writing an Aztec Codex

Abstract:

How did the Aztecs write? Aztec records were kept in long accordion style books, detailing the lives of rulers and history of the people in pictograms rather than a phonetic alphabet. This workshop will introduce the Aztec culture and focus on Aztec pictorial writing while building visual literacy and visual communication skills. Students will be taught storytelling elements used in these codices including how to recognize figure identities and names. In order to tell a story in their own codex, students will create a figure with a unique Aztec name and sign, draw upon Aztec pictogram storytelling basics, and creatively invent new visual cues.

Target Audience: 3rd-6th grade, Middle School, High School, Family Learning

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By using this Digital DIY Curriculum students will learn about the records of the Aztec people, identify Aztec symbols and their meanings, and create their own histories in Aztec-style pictograms.

1. Knowledge: Explore Aztec culture and history and come to appreciate a new type of literacy—visual literacy—as we learn to read pictorial Aztec histories.
2. Execution: Students will creatively use traditional Aztec storytelling basics and invent their own visual cues to create a personal history or story in a long, accordion-folded book.
3. Reflection: Think about an entirely visual communication system. Students can read a new kind of book to friends and family!

Brief Biography:

Rebekkah Hart graduated in 2019 from Brigham Young University with a BA in Art History & Curatorial Studies. She is now an MA student at UC Riverside with an emphasis on the devotional art of late medieval and early Renaissance England. Rebekkah was recently awarded a research grant to study medieval English alabasters at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, where she had previously spent a semester studying. She also spent several months in Siena, Italy where she studied medieval Tuscan art. Rebekkah hopes to pursue a Ph.D. and become a university professor of art history.

Gluck Creative Classroom Digital DIY files:

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