

Brandon Kuehn - Paranormal Artist

Objectives: Brandon Kuehn is a paranormal artist who specializes in capturing “the uncanny”, the feeling of mystery and the unknown. He refers back to the famous Chauvet Cave in France, which has some of the best-preserved cave paintings in the world, to talk about how images themselves can tell stories without written language. Paranormal art is an effort for him to create sacred space and transcendent movement through images. In this activity, you will create your own art based on stories and attempt to capture the overall meaning or theme of that story in your art piece without the use of words.

Standards (Suggested 4+):

ELA:

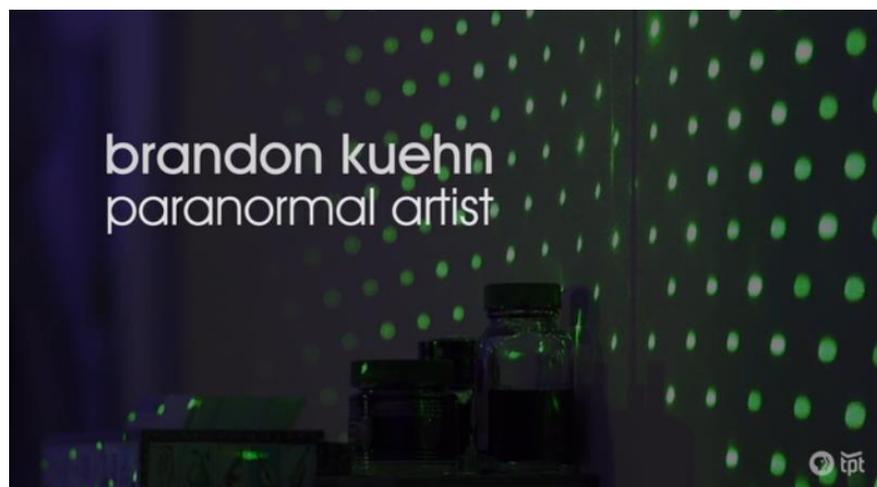
- 4.1.1.1. – Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
- 4.1.2.2. – Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text
- 4.1.3.3. – Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text
- 4.1.7.7. – Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text

Visual Arts:

- 4.1.1.5.2. – Describe how the principles of visual art such as repetition, pattern, emphasis, contrast, and balanced are used in the creation, presentation, or response to visual artworks
- 4.1.2.5.1. – Describe tools, materials, and techniques used in a variety of two-dimensional media such as drawing, printmaking, ceramics, or sculpture
- 4.1.3.5.2. – Describe how visual art communicates meaning
- 4.1.2.4.2. – Create original two-dimensional artworks to express specific artistic ideas

Tools/Resources:

MN Original video clip, examples of the Chauvet Caves (YouTube video is ideal).



Video Clip: <http://www.tpt.org/mn-original/episode/brandon-kuehn/>

172 EAST FOURTH STREET | SAINT PAUL, MN | 651.212.1717 | MNORIGINAL.ORG

Activity

- 1) Watch the segment and discuss:
 - a. Why does Brandon Kuehn create paranormal art? What is he trying to achieve?
 - b. Why are the Chauvet Caves important?
- 2) Brainstorm:
 - a. Think of a story you know very well, or your favorite story.
 - b. Jot down the key points – main themes, characters, settings, events, and actions. If necessary, find a copy of the story to refer to.
 - c. If you were to take a visual snapshot of the story that would describe the main points/characters/themes/events, what would it look like?
- 3) Create:
 - a. Once you have a sketch you are happy with, use any kind of medium (markers, pencils, pen, paint, collage) to create a visual representation of your favorite book – in other words, to tell the story's story visually.
 - b. Revise as needed.
 - c. When completed, create an artist's statement to describe and explain your visual artwork.