



Ars Moriendi

Activities: Grades 6-8

1. Death, grief, and dying are difficult things to understand, and it can be hard to express our thoughts and emotions about these topics. The artists in this exhibition use their art to help them try to understand these difficult feelings and thoughts. Their art also allows each viewer a way to understand death, grief, and dying in ways they may have not considered. Does your viewpoint change as you look at these pieces? Do any of these pieces help you with your thoughts and feelings regarding death, grief, and dying?

ACTIVITY:

- Notice the different colors and images the artists use as they portray death, grief, and dying. Do these choices convey certain emotions? Select one piece. Write about why you connect with this piece. If you were to recreate this piece, would you make any changes to help convey your thoughts and emotions? Write or draw out your response.
2. Grief is the way in which we work through our thoughts and feelings regarding difficult circumstances and situations. Artists will sometimes create works as a way to help cope with grief. Looking at the pieces in this exhibition, do you see any artists who have used their work as a way to help them cope with grief they may have felt? Do you connect with any of the artists and their work?

ACTIVITY:

- Think about a time you were grieving. Using the artists in this exhibition as various examples, draw your experience with grief. How did you work through those emotions and thoughts? Did you talk to someone you trust? Spend some time reading or watching a favorite show? Include a small written explanation of what helped you through that time.

Additional Resources:

- Helping Your Middle Schooler Cope with Loss:
<https://www.growbeyondwords.com/helping-your-middle-schooler-cope-with-loss/>
- Books about grief:
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-about-grief>
- The Grieving Process: Coping with Death
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsYL4PC0hyk>

Utah State Core Standards:

Visual Arts

Standard Connect

Students will relate artistic skills, ideas, and work with personal meaning and external context

English Language Arts

Writing Standard 4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Speaking and Listening Standard 2

Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.