

# Theme and Variation

by *Debi West*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### High-school Art II students will ...

- learn the importance of drawing from life, creatively.
- find a subject matter and draw it from various views using various media, nine times, to create a unique and interesting still life series in miniature.

## MATERIALS

- Nine 6" x 6" pieces of white drawing paper per student
- Poster board
- Still-life objects of students' choice
- Mixed media, glue

## PROCEDURES

1. Students will select a subject matter that they will enjoy looking at for two weeks.
2. Students will draw what they see, considering line and shape and recreate the drawing by looking from various views, ie, bird's eye, bug, foreshortened, zoomed in, zoomed out, cropped, straight on, etc.
3. Students will sketch out each view and select the nine that work the best.
4. Students will select nine various mediums and illustrate their individual squares using

these techniques, (e.g. art stix, collage, paint, watercolor, graphite, charcoal, crayon, oil pastel, chalk pastel, pen and ink, etc.).

5. Students will adhere each square onto their poster board, creatively, to tell a story about their subject matter.
6. This is a strong lesson in that it merges the technical aspects needed in art, with the creative elements.
7. Final artworks will be hung in a class display in the hallway.

## ASSESSMENT

We do in-process critiques using my "2 Glows and a Grow" model: Each student selects a classmate's work that speaks to him/her and attaches three notes—two with what works, and one with what the artist might want to consider or change. There is also an evaluation form that prompts students to appropriately reflect on the learning at hand and provides space for them to comment on the process and how they feel their final piece turned out. There is also space for me to comment and give them a grade based on their learning and the final work.