Lesson plan (outline) - Green Academy - 11/16/16

Goals:

* Enjoying making art
* Engage art toward meaningful experience, rather that for producing “good art”
* Access affective and present time relationship to the garden through drawing
* Include ourselves and our experience as part of “nature”

Objectives:

During this workshop, participants (teachers) will:

* Draw quick gesture sketches, and “air draw” to get comfortable with the activity.
* Spend time drawing something in the garden that they love
* Explore drawing as a mindfulness activity
* Share our work, reflect, and brainstorm ideas for how to incorporate into the classroom

Procedures

Introduction - (3 min)

Introduce myself and my work - “Making as Tending: art and visual culture curriculum for school and community gardens” and “Making as Mending: Art toward ecological justice and restoration”

Activating Prior Knowledge - ( 3 min)

Art and experience, garden as site of emotional intelligence and interconnectivity, orienting to the environment through the senses, the idea of ecology, and imagining drawing as an interspecies interaction (animal, vegetable, mineral collaboration). Goal is to have fun, and enjoy the experience of drawing.

Anticipatory Set - (10 min)

* Brainstorm “where drawing happens”
  + i.e. when the pencil meets the paper, or in the fingers, or in the eyes, in the feet.
* Gesture drawings - 5 total

1. Air drawing - finger in the air, shapes/movement you see- 30 sec
2. The pencil in the air - 30 sec
3. Not that same shape on the paper, just feel the pencil on the paper, and enjoy how it feels - 30 sec
4. pick something you like, and draw a blind contour of it (no looking at the paper or picking up your pencil - 1 min
5. pick another object or the same object, and draw it for one minute - 2 minutes

Activity - 15 minutes

* Look around the garden, and find something you really like.
  + Get colored pencils, pens, or just use #2 pencil.
* Go to the thing you want to draw and sit with it, or stay where you are. We are going to spend 10 minutes sitting with that thing and drawing it.
  + You can draw the whole plant, or just a section or pattern you find particularly lovely.
  + You can do the same process of air, gesture, blind contour, or you can just draw however you feel moved to.
  + Goal can be to draw the pattern of the thing, rather than to represent it.
  + Goal is to explore drawing as a way to know the thing you’re drawing.
* Come back together to find relationships (ecology) in what we made.
  + Make a “living visual poem” with a few drawings.

Closure: (10 min)

* Reflection on this activity,
* Brainstorm how it might be used in your classroom, or what you would modify to integrate it.
* Questions