

Conceptual Art - Mind Map / Concept Map Project

This project uses mind maps to generate ideas for a conceptual artwork – art about an idea.

- Mind Maps are diagrams that visually organize information.
- They are used to explore concepts/ideas, organize information, and visually illustrate the relationships (links) between concepts/ideas.

Question: How does one create an artwork about something that is not concrete - an abstract idea?

Examples of abstract ideas (words) are:

love, anger, stress, faith, vacation, joy, wisdom, past, future, energy, quiet, noisy, alive, politics, friendship, justice, peace, gender, tact, sing, talk

FYI: The human brain processes concrete and abstract words in different locations

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190228154837.htm>

How to make a Mind Map

1. Start with one main focus topic, then add branches (lines/links) to related concepts.
2. Use stream of consciousness (any thought that comes to mind) to come up with new concepts (see Examples of Mind Maps below).
3. In addition to branching out the new concepts (subtopics), you can add
 - a. links (lines) between existing nodes if you think they are related.
 - b. explanations to nodes (words or sentences in a bubble attached to a node that describe the node)
 - c. explanations to links (lines) (words or sentences that describe the link)

Creating an artwork from a mind map.

1. Using your square name template, make 4 squares on 1 page in your sketchbook.
2. On a large sheet of paper, write 1 of these words:
3. Birthday Lunch (an emotion word of your own choice)
4. Create map
 - a. Think of words related to your original word. Write them down. Draw a link between the original word and the new words.
 - b. Think of words related to your new words. Write them and attach links.
 - c. Repeat step 4 a few more times.
5. Scan your map
 - a. Look at the words and try to visualize how you might make a drawing, painting, or other artwork from it. You can use more than one word.
 - b. Make a little sketch in one of the squares in your sketchbook.
 - c. Repeat step 5 at least 1 more time.
6. Make a finished piece of art based on your idea – a drawing, painting, or collage.

Examples of Mind Maps are on the next page

