Lesson Plan: Introduction to Surrealism and Creating a Surreal Artwork

Grade Level: Middle School
Duration: One class period (70 minutes)

Objective:

Students will understand the key concepts of Surrealism and begin creating their own surreal artwork using grid techniques and digital tools.

Materials:

- Paper
- Ruler
- Pencils
- Digital devices (for Adobe Express)
- Access to Google Classroom assignment: [Surrealism Project](#)

Goals:

- I can create a surreal artwork using dream-like imagery and unusual combinations of elements.
- I can apply Surrealist techniques such as automatic drawing or collage to express subconscious ideas.
- I can use visual elements to evoke a sense of the fantastical and challenge conventional perceptions of reality.

Targets:

- I will design a piece with unexpected combinations and dream-like imagery that reflect Surrealist concepts.
- I will use techniques such as automatic drawing or collage to create abstract and imaginative elements in my artwork.
- I will experiment with visual elements to produce an artwork that evokes surrealism and stimulates the viewer's imagination.

Lesson Flow:

1. Entry Task (5 minutes):

- As students enter the classroom, have them grab a sheet of paper and a ruler.
- Students will label the backside of the paper with their name, date, and organize it for note-taking or sketching.

2. Introduction to Surrealism (15 minutes):

- **Discussion**: Briefly introduce the concept of Surrealism. Ask students if they've heard of

it and what they think it might mean.
- **Presentation on Surrealism**: Discuss artists like Salvador Dalí and show examples of their art.
    - **Key points to cover**: Dream-like imagery, unexpected combinations, the subconscious, challenging reality.
- **Video**: Play a short video explaining the history and major concepts of Surrealism (refer to the video in the Google Classroom assignment).

3. Reviewing the Video (5 minutes):

- **Bullet Points**: As a class, review the key concepts from the video. Ask students to create a list of key terms or ideas they learned about Surrealism (e.g., dream-like imagery, juxtaposition, subconscious).

4. Creating the Grid (10 minutes):

- **How-To**: Students will use their rulers to create a simple grid on their paper. This will serve as the foundation for their Surrealist artwork.
    - Walk them through the process step by step to ensure everyone follows along.
    - Students can choose to use this grid for sketching or for planning their digital surrealist artwork.

5. Introduction to the Project (5 minutes):

- **Project Prompt**: Review the project prompt with the students. They will create a surreal artwork using dream-like and unusual combinations of elements, inspired by the techniques of Surrealism.
    - If needed, distribute additional written prompts from the bucket (one major abd two minor).

6. Digital Tools: Creating Surreal Artwork (15 minutes):

- **How-To**: Demonstrate how to use Adobe Express or other digital platforms to create their surreal grid.
    - Show students how to upload their grids and begin manipulating them digitally.
    - If students are unfamiliar with the tools, go over the **step-by-step guide** in the Google Classroom assignment.
    - Encourage experimentation with unexpected combinations and dream-like visuals.

7. Independent Work Time (15 minutes):

- Students will begin working on their surreal artwork using the grid technique.
    - They can choose between starting their grid physically with sketches or digitally using Adobe Express.
    - Circulate the room to provide support, feedback, and guidance as students work on their artwork.

8. Wrap-Up and Reflection (5 minutes):

- Remind students about the Google Classroom assignment for further instructionsand

templates to continue working at home if needed.

Assessment:

- Formative: Monitor student progress during the grid-making and initial artwork phase.
- Summative: Final surrealist artwork submitted via Google Classroom.

Homework (Optional):

- Students can continue working on their surreal artwork using the step-by-step guide and templates provided in the Google Classroom link.
- This is especially important for those whose chromebooks died or are in disuse.

STEP BY STEP STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Create an AI-Generated Image in Adobe Express

1. **Open Adobe Express**:
   - Go to [Adobe Express](#) and sign in or create an account.
2. **Select the "AI Image Generator"**:
   - In the main menu, find and click on the **"AI Image Generator"** option.
3. **Input a Theme**:
   - Type in a phrase related to the project theme. For example:
     - *Obsession*: "Surreal landscape with repetitive objects."
     - *Disintegration*: "A shattered clock breaking into pieces."
     - *Reinvention*: "A flower transforming into a robotic structure."
4. **Generate the Image**:
   - Click "Generate" and wait for your AI image to appear. Choose the one that best fits your vision for the project.
5. **Download the Image**:
   - Once you're happy with the result, click **"Download"** to save the image to your device.

Step 2: Create a Grid on the AI Image

1. **Open the Template page**:
   - Make a copy of the document
   - Insert your image
     - Go to image options– adjustments– opacity– lower to 40%
     - Wrap Settings– in front of text
     - Make sure your whole grid is filled with your image
2. **Draw a Grid**:
   - Use a ruler and pencil to lightly draw a **2-inch by 2-inch grid** across the entire printed image.

Step 3: Recreate the Grid on Drawing Paper

1. **Prepare Your Drawing Paper**:
   - Take a clean sheet of drawing paper (the same size as the printed image).
2. **Draw a Matching Grid**:

 ○ Lightly draw the same 2-inch by 2-inch grid on your drawing paper using a ruler. Make sure the lines are light enough that they can be erased later.

Step 4: Color in the Grid Squares with Colored Pencils

1. **Focus on One Square at a Time**:
   ○ Start with **square A1** on both the printed image and your drawing paper.
   ○ Look closely at the colors and shapes in that square, then recreate it on your drawing paper using colored pencils.
2. **Blend and Layer Colors**:
   ○ Use different shades of colored pencils to match the colors in the AI image. Blend colors together to create smooth transitions where needed.
3. **Repeat for Each Square**:
   ○ Move to **square A2**, **A3**, and so on, carefully recreating each square from the printed AI image onto your drawing paper.
4. **Pay Attention to Detail**:
   ○ Focus on capturing the overall look of the image, even if you have to simplify some details. Use soft strokes to layer colors and make smooth transitions between shades.
5. **Finish the Entire Grid**:
   ○ Continue this process until you've filled in all the squares, matching the AI-generated image square by square.

Step 5: Final Touches

1. **Erase Grid Lines**:
   ○ Once all the squares are colored in, gently erase the grid lines from your drawing paper to reveal the final image.
2. **Refine Details**:
   ○ Go back and add any final touches with colored pencils to smooth out colors, enhance details, or darken areas that need more depth.
3. **Sign Your Artwork**:
   ○ Don't forget to sign your name on the bottom corner of your artwork!
4. **Answer the artist statement questions on the back of your project**

THEME INFORMATION

Inspired by the famous artist Salvador Dalí, you will explore three big ideas in your artwork: **Obsession, Disintegration, and Reinvention.**

1. **Obsession**: What are you really interested in or focused on? Dalí was obsessed with many things like landscapes and his wife. Create an artwork showing something you can't stop thinking about or something that fascinates you. Or you can zoom out and look at celebrity culture and obsession in media. Or addiction (appropriate)
2. **Disintegration**: Dalí was fascinated by how things break apart or change. Can you show an object or idea breaking into pieces or falling apart? Think of how something can be broken down and visually changed.
3. **Reinvention**: Dalí was always changing his style and image. How can you take something familiar and change it into something new? Show this transformation in your artwork.

Use one, two, or all three of these themes to create your unique masterpiece!