



## A Best Project\* Visual Arts

**Project Title: Art and Symbols Across Cultures**  
**ArtsBridge Campus: Lawrence University**  
**Host School: Tullar Elementary School**  
**Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**ArtsBridge Scholar: Kate Ostler**  
**ArtsBridge Host Teacher: Marcia MacDonald**

### National Standards (Visual Arts) Addressed:

**Content Standard 1:**

Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.

**Content Standard 3:**

Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

**Content Standard 4:**

Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

**Content Standard 5:**

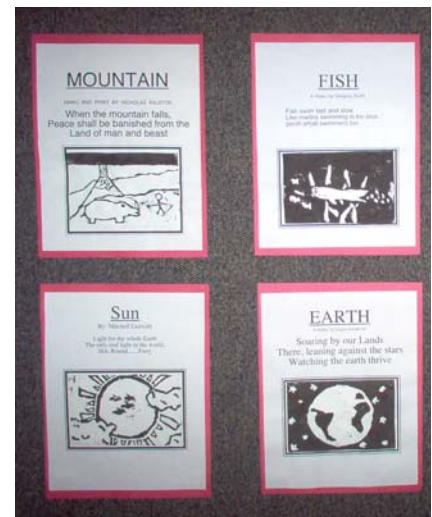
Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

**Content Standard 6:**

Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

### Content Area Connections:

- Social Studies
- Language Arts



### Description of the Project:

ArtsBridge scholar Kate Ostler led her students on a global journey using the art and symbols of the various cultures studied. Students learned vocabulary and background information about Egyptian, Native American, and Japanese cultures and their art forms and then were able to create their own art based on what they were learning in their social studies curriculum. Students spent a significant amount of time examining symbols and their various meanings. Students even created collages of symbols that portrayed their own personalities. After creating a personal representation using symbols students were asked to translate the symbols into words, creating personality poems. During their ArtsBridge project, students also compared and created work based on Native American pottery and Egyptian hieroglyphics. Students also learned about block prints and composed haikus while studying Japanese traditions. These symbolic prints and haikus were shown at an ArtsBridge art show at the end of the year. Through this project students were able to become more creative, open-minded, and observant about global cultures, art, and their own community. Students also showed a sincere enthusiasm and pronounced understanding of other cultures on both a personal and artistic level.

\* This brief analysis has been compiled by ArtsBridge from project materials submitted by the scholar.  
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