

LESSON PLAN

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The Hovering **raindrop** of Alistair McClymont



Raindrop Alistair McClymont

About the artist

Alistair McClymont is a British artist who successfully explores the connection of art and science. He builds machines and interesting structures in order to reproduce natural phenomena that we often take for granted. His beautiful installations reveal the beauty of nature in an unexpected way. He creates tornadoes using a humidifier, and nighttime rainbows by using water

and light, and raindrops that suspend in midair. He is more interested in the process used to create these installations than the actual finished product. He writes: “My artwork is a continuing process of discovery and experimentation. Each piece follows the last in a continual journey of investigation into cultural and physical phenomena. The work is underlined by a search for what it is to be human. This might be our position in time and space on a grand scale, or singular observations on subjects that fascinate me. Each takes a small subject area and breaks it down into something understandable and perhaps beautiful.”

In his *Raindrop*, he creates a magical drop that is suspended in midair. We are witnessing magic, art and science in this small beautiful raindrop.

Objectives:

Students will:

Understand that artists often use scientific phenomena to create art

Understand the connection of art and science

Understand that some artists observe nature up close

Understand that artists can get ideas for subject matter from nature

Setup

Examine the use of machines in some of Alistair McClymont’s works

Observe and discuss how the artist was able to have the raindrop suspended in midair

Discuss the properties of water

Studio Exploration

Materials

Small balloons

Water

Liquid water colors

Water colors

Water color paper

In thinking how to interpret the *Raindrop* of Alistair McClymont, and to create a project using water in some form, the students decided to fill small balloons with water and a drop or two of liquid water color and freeze them overnight. The next day the students removed the latex and they had frozen colorful giant drops of water. This experiment provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the properties of water. The students created colorful compositions by using the frozen water drops in place of a brush to blend the water colors. The water colors were applied directly from the tube for more colorful results.

N.C Essential Standards

Students generate ideas for artistic expression

Students explore expressive potential of art forms, media and techniques

Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art

Students describe how different expressive features and organizational principals cause different responses

Resources:

The artist's website: <http://www.alistairmcclymont.com/>

Alistair McClymont in Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/alistairmcclymont>

Alistair McClymont on Saatchi Online <http://www.saatchionline.com/alistairmcclymont>

To view the work of Alistair McClymont, *Everything we are capable of seeing* visit:
<http://camraleigh.org/exhibitions/2013mcclymont/>

To schedule a school visit please visit <http://camraleigh.org/visit/tours/> to download a request form.