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## Project Research: Illustration

### Essential Questions:

- A) Out of the four artists shown to the viewer (John Bauer, Brenda Lyons, Enzo Peres-Labourdette, and David Sossella), who do they prefer and why?
- B) How do five random students of West Hall High School think of illustration and do they think its a respected medium in society?

### Research:

A) For part “a” of my essential question I interviewed twenty-two people, showing them the same three artworks per artist. The tallies that I gathered from this experiment ended up with these results: Brenda Lyons held the most votes with nine tallies, John Bauer received seven tallies, Enzo Peres-Labourdette had four tallies, and in last, David Sossella only gained two tallies.

The reason why Lyons received the most votes out of the other three artists, was the simple fact that her work contained not only great amounts of detail, but also the use of different mediums in her work. Since the artist used a multitude of mediums, such as, canvas, leather and feathers, her work became more interesting to the students, therefore, pulling their votes towards her. The reason why I think that many students failed to choose the artist Sossella is because of his cartoony style. I gathered this from the soul fact that the students based their votes mainly on detail, giving both Brenda Lyons and John Bauer that boost. Also, when viewing the works of Sossella, the art appears to be in more of a concept form rather than a completed work. That is another reason why I think the students avoided to vote for him.

B) For part “B” of my essential question I interviewed the five random students and received a mixed amount of answers for each question. Neither of the answers lean to one side or the other, they were quite balanced in how the students viewed illustration.

The first question that I asked was, “How do you view illustration compared to other art forms”?

~Student 1: “I like illustration less because it is not interesting”.

~Student 2: “I think illustration is more personal form of art, each stroke is a conscience decision by the artist . . .”

~Student 3: “I do not think illustration, as a medium, is quite as effective as sculpture because of the lack of a third dimension which perspective techniques cannot fully replace”.

~Student 4: “Illustration reminds me of my childhood, like Disney movies, so I like it”.

~Student 5: “Should be the most respected art form because of books and scientific drawings”.

I then asked those same students, “Do you think society still appreciates illustration”?

~Student 1: “No, I do not think society appreciates illustration anymore because in this day and age, people are interested in the technology side of everything”.

~Student 2: “. . . the majority of people don’t realize how much work really goes into it and it’s really underappreciated”.

~Student 3: “But I do think society as a whole appreciates illustration, both for practical and decorative purposes. Illustrations are used on basically every medium for

communications where three-dimensions just wouldn't be convenient, and the market for paintings and digital art is bigger than ever".

~Student 4: "Yes".

~Student 5: "People do not understand the technicality of being an illustrator".

From the data that I gathered from each interview, I came to the results that the students, overall, have some sort of respect towards illustration, but they do think that society does not have a reciprocated view of the art. When looking deeply into the answer of whether or not people appreciate illustration, I can understand why the students answered the way they did. Society, as a whole, seems to lean to the side of fine art, leaving illustration in the dust. Since illustration has been given the popular title of a "commercial art", people lose the sense that illustration can and is a form of fine art. Like all fine arts, illustration requires deep thought, a skilled hand, and a message to send to the viewer. It makes me disappointed to see the answers of how society views illustration because they do not realize all the work that goes into creating a piece, whether its for a childrens book or a household piece.

Therefore, my goal is to change this view of society towards illustration, one baby step at a time. I have already started convincing my fellow students to create illustrations to put around the school for "Free Art Friday", a weekly event when the art students put free art in the hallways or classrooms for other students. The students can create anything that they desire, from a drawing of a penguin riding a shark to a painting of a mythological being. The possibilities are endless when creating an illustration. By doing this, my hope is to show the student and faculty

body that illustration should be a respected art form and not downplayed by the definition of “commercial art”.