



Connecting to Nature Curriculum Connections

Grade 8 - Visual Arts

In her project, *Nocturnal Botanical Ontario*, artist Sara Angelucci photographs plants that grow in the Pretty River Valley in Southern Ontario. Her compositions of plants growing uncover the ecological impacts of immigration and global trade; forces which have wreaked havoc on the natural environment. Sara Angelucci also explores themes of grief, permaculture, and connection to land. Using time-lapse photography, she captures indigenous plants intertwined with invasive plants. You can find a more in-depth look on her website [here](#).

There are many opportunities to integrate environmental education into the teaching of the arts. Nature often provides an inspirational starting point for creativity in both representational and more abstract art forms. To allow for meaningful connections, investigate the outdoors to observe, explore, and investigate nature.

Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

CONTACT is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and fostering the art and profession of photography with an annual Festival in May throughout Toronto and year-round programming in the CONTACT Gallery. CONTACT embraces an inclusive and accessible approach to the medium, and cultivates collaborations with and among artists, curators, institutions, and organizations.

Sara Angelucci is one of the featured artists in the CONTACT festival this year with her piece below titled [Botanica Colossi](#).

Let's Get Started

Take a look.



Left:

Sara Angelucci (Canadian, 1962-)

July 24 (Wild Grape, Queen Anne's Lace, Daisy Fleabane), 2020

Nocturnal Botanical Ontario series

Courtesy of the artist, Stephen Bulger Gallery, and Patrick Mikhail Gallery

Centre:

Sara Angelucci (Canadian, 1962-)

September 21 (Wild Grape, Queen Anne's Lace, Daisy Fleabane), 2020

Nocturnal Botanical Ontario series

Courtesy of the artist, Stephen Bulger Gallery, and Patrick Mikhail Gallery

Right:

Sara Angelucci (Canadian, 1962-)

July 31 (Wild Grape, Queen Anne's Lace, Daisy Fleabane), 2020

Nocturnal Botanical Ontario series

Courtesy of the artist, Stephen Bulger Gallery, and Patrick Mikhail Gallery

Closer Look

Choose some of the following questions to help guide your critical analysis of the work above:

Initial Reaction

What is your first impression?

What does this work remind you of?

What do you feel? What emotions does this work evoke?

What connections can you make between this work and your own experiences?

Description

What do you see when you examine the work closely?

What grabs your attention in the work?

What do you sense (e.g., see, hear, smell, feel, taste) when you look at the work?

What stands out for you? What elements of art do you notice?

Analysis and Interpret

Analyse ways in which elements and principles of design are used in a variety of art works to communicate a theme or message and evaluate the effectiveness.

How are the elements organized, combined, or arranged?

How does the work evoke ideas, feelings, and images?

What do you think is the theme or subject of the work? (i.e., What is the artist trying to communicate, and why?)

What message or meaning do you think the work conveys?

Expression of an Informed Point of View

How effectively does the artist select and combine elements to achieve an intended effect in this work?

Has your point of view shifted from your initial reaction? If so, how has it changed?

What made you change your mind?

Consideration of Cultural Context

Art has often been used as a visual representation and creative outlet for social, political and economic commentary.

Why is it important for art to be an outlet for social, political and economic issues?

How are you influenced and inspired by what's going on around you? Do you connect to artwork that reflects you in some way?

Extension Activity

Part One: We have discussed how art is used to find connections to the natural world. Explore nature around you and use it as inspiration for a painting or mixed media piece.

Once complete, share with your class. Ask them to interpret your work and see if it matches up with the theme you wanted to express.

Other PAMA resources to check out for inspiration

Visit [PAMA's Virtual Exhibitions](#)

Check out our elements of art [poster](#)