



PERPICH
TEACHING IN AND
THROUGH THE ARTS

**Perpich Center for Arts Education
Exquisite Corps Video Dance Lesson
Middle School/High School**

Brief Description

Students will use the video “Exquisite Corps” as a take off point to respond to dance, identify movement and transition ideas, research a specific period of Western modern dance history and use the video as a template to create a video dance virtually - either alone or with others.

Enduring Understanding - Choreographers use many inspirations for dances. We are connected through space and time. Essential Question - How can we create connection?

**MN Standards
Respond/Connect/Create**

Process / Steps

Step 1. (Respond Standard)

Watch video- “Exquisite Corps” at least four times:

<https://youtu.be/B3pFxsYPLgU>

Answer the following reflection questions.

What stood out to you?

What choreographers appeal to you and why?

Identify movement qualities of at least 3-5 choreographers.

Why do you think these choreographers are connected?

The dance filmmaker is using this writing idea. Exquisite corpse, also known as exquisite cadaver (from the original French term cadavre exquis), as a method by which a collection of words or images is collectively assembled. (Wikipedia)

What other ways can choreographers play this assemblage device?

Step 2 (Create/Perform standard)

If Zoom is available - improvise together, then link the improvisations using a final shape as transition as they do in the video. (If possible, you can do it live)



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Step 3 (Connect Standard)

Identify 3-5 artists that interest you. Research these artists.

Who? Where did they study? Where are they based?

What is their work about? (Find an artist statement by the choreographer for this)

Cite your sources.

Step 4 (Respond and Connect Standards)

Find a video of another work by each choreographer that you identified.

Complete a reflection sheet for each dance.

Step 5 (Connect)

Read a review of a performance of one of your choreographers.

What stood out to you in the reviews?

What is the work about?

What do the critics say?

Step 6 (Connect)

Draw or create a visual chart to represent these 3-5 choreographers.

Maybe create a timeline or a map of the U.S.? How do these choreographers intersect?

Step 7 (Create and Connect)

Create your own “Exquisite Corps” video with a small group in the class.

Watch this video to see how the dance filmmaker discusses his process.

<https://youtu.be/PCXFdjwub6A>

Use chat or Google hang out to discuss your options. *Please use the final shape as your transition.* Questions to ponder:

How will we connect visually? How will we upload? Edit? How will we make decisions? What does artistic success look like in this video? What is our theme?

Step 8 (Create)

Share with another group and teacher online. Use the chat function for feedback.

All students must write one response.



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Step 9

Incorporate feedback. Draft a statement regarding feedback use.

Step 10

Revise. Draft artist statement. Share.

Reflection Questions for Step 4

What did you notice?

Briefly describe the dance - how many dancers, where was it performed, what were they wearing? What was the sound? What were the design elements?

Describe the movement and choreographic ideas.

What did it remind you of?

Assessment Criteria:

Complete responses

Use of dance language

Accurate research on choreographers

Innovative ideas for video dance

Draft of dance using “Exquisite Corps” assemblage

Respectful feedback for other dances

Justification for use or non-use of feedback

Revision

Artist statement

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