



art21.org/danielgordon



Daniel Gordon

ABOUT

Born

1980 (Boston, Massachusetts)

Education

Bard College, BA
Yale University, MFA

Lives and Works

New York, New York

About the Artist

Daniel Gordon creates works that dissolve distinctions between collage, photography, and sculpture. His practice involves culling images from the Internet, digitally altering the images, and then printing them and using cutouts of these images to construct tableaus, which he photographs.

Propelled by intuition and Photoshop, Gordon expands the traditional visual repertoire to include the World Wide Web. His ability to integrate digital and analog images creates a joyful disorientation in which fiction and truth are indistinguishable from each other.

TEACHING CONNECTIONS

Media and Materials

photography
sculpture

Key Words and Ideas

abstract
analog
appropriation
collage
color
disorientation
reproduction

pixelation
tableau
transformation

Related Artists

Eleanor Antin
John Baldessari
Lucas Blalock
Mark Bradford
Alex Da Corte
Raúl de Nieves
Ellen Gallagher
Trenton Doyle Hancock
Arturo Herrera
Oliver Herring
Elliot Hundley

Adam Milner
Azikiwe Mohammed
Elizabeth Murray
Robin Rhode
Cindy Sherman
Ruby Sky Stiler
Jessica Stockholder
Stephanie Syjuco
Jeff Wall
Bryan Zanisnik

“I think there’s really an interesting conflict between the analog versus the digital and I love both.” —Daniel Gordon

How to Use This Guide

Art21 encourages active engagement when teaching with our films. The questions and activities below are recommendations for incorporating Art21 films featuring Daniel Gordon into your classroom. Each class will likely require different adaptations for best results.

NOTE: Please view all films before sharing them with your students.

Before Viewing

Establish key ideas, in anticipation of viewing the film(s):

- ① What do collage, sculpture and photography have in common?
- ② Why do artists choose to change images and objects from how we normally experience them into something else?
- ③ How do artists work with the idea of transformation? What other professions and disciplines engage with transformation, physically or conceptually?
- ④ When do you know something is made by hand? What kinds of qualities might it have?

While Viewing

Support active viewing, and pause the film to clarify particular ideas:

- ① How does Gordon's work incorporate collage, sculpture and photography? What is his process like?
- ② List some of the different ways that Gordon experiments with and abstracts traditional pictorial elements in his work. For example, how does he manipulate color in his photographs?
- ③ Gordon often allows the viewer to see the seams, tears in the paper, pixelation of images and other evidence of the creative process in his photographs. How would you describe the effect this has on viewing and experiencing his work?

After Viewing

Follow-up on key ideas and synthesize information learned from the film(s):

- ① What parts of Gordon's creative process do you find most interesting? Why?
- ② How are Gordon's photos "a fiction and a truth at the same time"?
- ③ Gordon states, "I think there's really an interesting conflict between the analog versus the digital and I love both." How would you describe this conflict as shown in his work?
- ④ Compare how both Gordon and Eleanor Antin, featured in the "Humor" episode, engage with the idea of a tableau. How do these artists take similar and very different approaches to this way of creating a scene?

Related Activities

Engaging in creative activities after watching Art21 films can reinforce learning and stimulate ideas. Art21 encourages educators to adapt these activities to their classrooms.

- ✓ Take a series of 8-10 photos and then make a digital copy of each in order to create a second set. Intentionally experiment with and change the colors in the second set of images using Photoshop or other photo editing software. Exhibit both sets together and discuss how the changes in color affect how we experience the subjects of these photos.
- ✓ After choosing a theme or particular idea you'd like to work with, use Daniel Gordon and Eleanor Antin to inspire the creation of a tableau you will then photograph with classmates. Ask classmates to model as well as contribute elements to the final work before it's photographed.
- ✓ Utilize a collection of digital images to create a large-scale collage with classmates. How can you transform the images selected in order to contribute to the overall visual effect of the work itself?