

Virtual Visit: Outline

Liliana Porter

For You, The Conversation, and The Offering, 2001

Content Areas

Visual Art, English/Language Arts

Essential Question

How does Liliana Porter's art inspire us to use objects around us to create photographs about which we can tell stories?

Overview

A museum educator introduces students to artist Liliana Porter who was born in Argentina and lives in New York City. Students view and briefly explore Porter's prints based on photographs of objects she collects. We look at a print titled *For You* and watch a video of Porter in her studio. The educator encourages students to consider how Porter arranges objects on the page and to imagine possible stories in the prints *The Conversation* and *The Offering*.

Students are then prompted to create their own photo series using objects they find at home. The educator shares their own examples—chooses objects, arranges and photographs them, creates titles for scenes and reads the beginnings of a story. Students will title three to five of their favorite photos and then write a short story inspired by one of them.

Objectives

- Students will practice looking at the compositions and subjects in the prints and engage in storytelling.
- Students will create a series of photographs using household objects arranged in different scenes.
- Students will title their staged photographs and write a short story inspired by one of their images in their photo series.

Materials

A plain piece of fabric such as a pillowcase, 4–8 household objects, a device with a camera, lined paper, and a pen or pencil.

Key Terms

- Portrait
- Character
- Offering
- Background
- Personality
- Series

Discussion/Support

Teachers can support students by checking for comprehension and prompting students to reflect and respond to questions asked during the virtual visit. They can assist students to complete a series of titled photographs and write a short story. Teachers can help students share their work with each other, online ([#RISDMuseum](#) [#museumfromhome](#) [#TeachingwithArt](#)) or with the RISD Museum at teachers@risd.edu.

Evaluation of Student Work

Students will create a series of 3–5 titled photographs and write a short story.

Discussion Questions and Prompts

What do you see?

What do you think their conversation is about? How would the conversation change if Liliana placed the spoons far apart instead of close together? What if one spoon was upside-down?

Why do you think the penguin statue is offering something to the Japanese woman on the plate? What could happen next in this story?

Set up a plain fabric background

Gather 4–8 objects with personalities

Arrange and photograph different scenes

Add creative titles to 3–5 of your best photos

Write a short story that shares a title with your favorite photo

Works in this Lesson

Liliana Porter, *Forty Years (self portrait with square 1973)*, 2013.
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Liliana Porter, *For You*, 2001.
Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art.

Liliana Porter, *The Conversation*, 2001.
Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art.

Liliana Porter, *The Offering*, 2001.
Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art.

More Activities and Resources

Teaching Notes: [Artists' Ideas, Materials, and Processes](#)

Article: [Pablo Helguera: Inventarios/Inventories](#)

Website: lilianaporter.com