

## Grade Level: Ambassadors

### Shadow Art Showcase

**Medium:** Sculpture

**Visual Art Standard:**

Skills & Technique  
Creation & Communication  
Cultural & Historical Connections  
Applications to Life

**Vocabulary**

Mixed Media, Assemblage, Shadow Art

**Art Element:** Line, Shape, Form

**Objectives:**

Introduce shadow and assemblage art. Design 3-dimensional sculptures with the creation of the shadow effect in mind, rather than the appearance of the sculpture. Emphasize mindfulness of the environment and creative use of curated items.

**Supplies:** Flash lights, hot glue guns, wire, poster boards; recycled materials: cans, bottles, magazines, cardboard boxes; miscellaneous art supplies: foam, beads, string; Sue Webster PDF (attached), tri-fold foam boards (optional)

**Preparation:**

Prepare each station with a poster board, hot glue gun, and flashlight. Recycled materials and miscellaneous art supplies should be available in the room.

Display laminated Sue Webster images around the room.

Depending on arrangement of the room, desks or tables may need to be pushed against the walls.

**Procedure:**

Part 1: Lesson about Shadow Art  
Part 2: Shadow Art Activity

## Part 1: Lesson about Shadow Art

This project will introduce several techniques: mixed media, assemblage, and shadow art.

**Mixed media** describes artwork composed using a combination of different media or materials.

**Assemblage art** is constructed by assembling and incorporating everyday objects scavenged by the artist or bought specially. Although each object, such as a piece of rope, newspaper, or bottle, may acquire symbolic meaning in the work, it retains something of its original identity.

For example: a blue plastic bottle may become part of an ocean scene, but also portray a message about plastic litter in the ocean.

**Shadow art** uses 3D sculptures to cast a 2D shadows to create an artistic effect.

You will use these techniques to create pieces for a Shadow Art Showcase.

*Show the Sue Webster slide show or pass around laminated slides.*

The work of Sue Webster reuses trash to create sculptures, when projected with light creates shadows of the consumers who generated that waste.



## **Part 2: Shadow Art Activity**

*Dim the lights, if possible. Alternate between moments of darkness for optimal shadow clarity, and moments of light for visibility during sculpture assembly.*

You may work together or separately to create sculptures that will cast a unique shadow.

First, you will need to create your work station. You may work on the floor or a table. You may tape a poster board to a wall or position a trifold foam board in front of you. Allow enough room to position your light source, sculpture, and shadow.

Be sure to measure and record the distance between the light, sculpture, and wall/board so you will be able to reposition and duplicate it in another location.

Decide what kind of message you want to convey with your shadow.

Will it be the silhouette of a person, an animal, a place or a thing?

In addition to creating an art piece, we are being respectful of the environment by repurposing waste and seeing potential in discarded materials.

Choose your materials and design your creation with the shadow effect in mind, rather than what the sculpture looks like.

Take 10 minutes to begin gathering materials. You can also curate materials as you go.

Use glue, tape, or wire to fasten your sculpture together.

Sue Webster, and partner Tim Noble, are London-based artists whose work combines assemblage, light, shadow and humor. They aggregate objects and debris into mind-boggling light and shadow sculptures. At first glance, we see jumbled piles of trash, the familiar by-products of a throw-away society. Upon closer look, we discover that the piles are precise constructions that cast crisp, figurative shadows onto the wall.

<https://www.artworksforchange.org/portfolio/tim-noble-and-sue-webster/>

