Art and Ecology

Course Learning Outcomes:
- Learn about contemporary artists and artworks
- Understand artist’s purpose for creating artwork, messages involved, context in which it is viewed
- Gain appreciation for artists and their work

Assignment Learning Outcomes:
- Understand “ecological literacy”
- Enhance critical thinking skills
- Make connections between themselves, their actions, and the earth

Critical Thinking Skills:
- Discuss & debate Colosseum flora clean-up
- Nature area proposed painting assignment

Relevancy to Students:
- Artwork lectures focus on Contemporary and Modern American art
- Nature Study area grows native plants and is a huge asset to MV

Assignment:
Step 1: home-based reading
- Students will be assigned 2 to 3 short readings explaining ecological literacy.
- Read Exploring Art, Chapter 14: “Nature, Knowledge, and Technology”
Step 2: lecture
- Earthworks
- Colosseum [Flavian Amphitheatre] - include brief debate/discussion with class
- Ansel Adams & American landscape paintings (plein-air technique)
Step 3: fieldtrip
- Nature Study area
- Assignment: students chose a location they would paint if they could, either photograph with phone or make a sketch, then write a paragraph about the significance of the location and why they chose it
Step 4: group presentation
- Each group is given an artwork to learn about, then as a group, present the info to the rest of the class
  - Maya Lin, Bodies of Water  http://blog.art21.org/2013/07/12/maya-lin-examines-disappearing-bodies-of-water/
  - Joseph Beuys, 7000 Oaks  http://www.diaart.org/sites/page/51/1364

Method of Assessment:
- Engagement with active learning techniques
- Discussion participation
- Evaluate written statements from Nature area assignment