

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: March 25, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: Homosexuality in Contemporary (Christian?) Art

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore how modern artist are expressing homosexuality in Christian based works of art.
2. Examine the comparisons between LGBT artists from the Renaissance and today.
3. Understand why LGBT artists wish to express their beliefs and sexuality through one cohesive work of art.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

“The Radiant Christ Child: Keith Haring and the Jesus Movement”:

http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/526480?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=contemporary&searchText=christian&searchText=art&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dcontemporary%2Bchristian%2Bart%26amp%3Bprq%3Dpiss%2Bchrist%26amp%3Bgroup%3Dnone%26amp%3Bhp%3D25%26amp%3Bso%3Drel%26amp%3Bwc%3Don%26amp%3Bfc%3Doff%26amp%3Bacc%3Don&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

“The Marriage of Heaven and Hell” by Keith Haring: http://www.haring.com/!/selected_writing/the-marriage-of-heaven-and-hell#.Vv30D5wrK1s

“Holy Smoke! Take the Church Gay Art Tour”:

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2013/jul/30/gay-art-catholic-church-homosexuality>

“Queer Lady of Guadalupe”: <http://jesusinlove.blogspot.com/2010/12/queer-lady-of-guadalupe-artists-re.html>

“Stations of the Cross Show Struggle for Equality”: <http://www.jesusinlove.blogspot.com/2013/03/lgbt-stations-of-cross-shows-struggle.html>

“Smithsonian Censors Gay Artist”: <http://jesusinlove.blogspot.com/2010/12/smithsonian-censors-gay-artist-when.html>

“Controversial Artist Mixed Gay and Christian Imagery”: <http://www.jesusinlove.blogspot.com/2013/07/david-wojnarowicz-controversial-artist.html>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. Keith Haring was a homosexual and a Christian. How did he display these themes in his works?
2. Considering three out of our four “Ninja Turtles”, or top Renaissance masters, were homosexual, how has this become such a controversial topic in our modern society? Is it because the artists are more outwardly intermixing their faith and sexuality? Explain your thoughts.
3. What are your thoughts on artists who create traditional Christian icons as LGBT? Should this be considered blasphemous and censored? Why?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Select any one of the articles we did not discuss from <http://www.jesuinlove.org/artists.php>. In your own words, write a one-page essay explaining how the artist in your article of choice expresses Christian themes alongside their sexual preference through their art. Do you believe that artist gets their points fully across through their works and why?