Art 9/10

Victoria High School

Feature Film Viewing: *Wasteland*

Hello Art parents!

As part of a cross-curricular, Project Based Learning initiative on the topic of sustainability here at Vic High, I am planning a unit in art that includes the viewing of the documentary, *Wasteland.* We will watch the film during the first week of April.

Synopsis:

Filmed over nearly three years, WASTE LAND follows renowned artist Vik Muniz as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho, located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. There he photographs an eclectic band of *“catadores”*—self-designated pickers of recyclable materials. Muniz’s initial objective was to “paint” the catadores with garbage. However, his collaboration with these inspiring characters as they recreate photographic images of themselves out of garbage reveals both the dignity and despair of the *catadores* as they begin to re-imagine their lives. Director Lucy Walker (DEVIL’S PLAYGROUND, BLINDSIGHT and COUNTDOWN TO ZERO) and co-directors João Jardim and Karen Harley have great access to the entire process and, in the end, offer stirring evidence of the transformative power of art and the alchemy of the human spirit.

* <http://www.wastelandmovie.com/index.html>

However, while this film has won multiple awards, including Sundance Film Festival and Amnesty International’s Human Rights film award, it does contain sensitive material and possibly offensive language.

We will be creating individual works of art on a sub-topic of the student’s choosing, as well as a small, collaborative mural. Our unit will conclude with self portraits made in the style of the catadores: out of the garbage! This will be a lesson and an exploration into our waste and what it reveals about us. I invite you to watch our progress as I post images on my website: mzhopesclass.weebly.com.

If you have concerns, please contact me. If I do not hear from you, I will assume it is safe to move ahead and show your child this film.

Thank you!

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