ART PROJECT 1: Story Path

Materials: Paper, pencil or pen, Google Maps (optional), scissors, and tape.

Inspiration: What materials did Bervin use to create River? How did Bervin create this artwork? Why do you think the artist used these materials and techniques to create a scale model of the Mississippi River?

Think of a place that means a lot to you or somewhere you often go. Consider paths you travel from your home like to a friend’s house, or to school, or in a video game or a dream.

Project Steps:

1. Using Google Maps, search the directions from your home address to the place you have chosen to focus on.
2. Draw or print out the path between these two places as big as your paper allows.
3. Once you have drawn or printed your path, cut out around the shape of the path.
4. Tape it to a wall or a table top.
5. Think about how this path makes you feel and what it reminds you of. What memories do you have from being on this path?

Extension: Write a poem or short story inspired by your memories and feelings while at your chosen place or on this path. Arrange your words so they follow the shape of the surface of your path, similar to Bervin’s Silk Poems.
ART PROJECT 2: Tissue Paper “Quilt”

Materials: Colored tissue paper, scissors, glue stick, tape, sharpened pencil, paper, and folded paper towel.

Inspiration: What shapes do you see repeated in Bervin’s work Pierced Light? How do you think the artist made the designs across the surface of the work? What do the shapes and lines in this artwork remind you of?

Bervin created this work after spending 3 years as a fire watch in Bisbee, Arizona. A fire watch is someone who observes the landscape to search for signs of fire. If they see smoke or fire, they send an alert so firefighters can get to the area before the fire gets out of control.

Project Steps:

1. Cut your tissue paper into different sized squares and rectangles.
2. Glue the edges of your tissue paper pieces together to form a paper quilt.
3. Set aside to dry. If necessary, use scissors to cut around the edges once dry.
4. On a separate piece of blank paper, draw the shape of an object of your choice.
5. Cut out the shape you drew.
6. Fold a paper towel in half and place your tissue paper quilt on top of the paper towel.
7. Place your cut-out object on top of your tissue paper quilt.
8. Using a sharp pencil, poke holes into the paper quilt following the outline of your cut-out shape.
9. When done, tape your paper quilt to a window to see the light shine through.

Extension:
Place your shape on another area of your quilt and repeat the process. Do this multiple times to create an image similar to Bervin’s Pierced Light. Consider trying multiple cut-out shapes, or a variety of sizes of the same shape.