



# Curriculum Guide & Activity

Robert  
Gober

ICA  
MIAMI



---

# INDEX

---

/ INTRODUCTION	1
\ LEARNING OBJECTIVES	2
/ FOR TEACHERS	2
\ KEY DISCUSSION	3
/ VOCABULARY TERMS	4
\ ABOUT THE ARTIST	5
/ ABOUT THE WORK	6
\ ACTIVITY	7

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

In this course, educators will discuss how Goyer's artistic work creates a story or narrative through photography using replicas of his environment and mass-produced objects to convey the individual's desires and memories. By viewing Goyer's work, students will learn how the artist's photography not only focuses on storytelling but how the artist arranges the work to tell a story that's inextricably bound to American history, politics, and religion.



---

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

---

Students will explore how artist Robert Gober builds narrative through photographs and installation.

---

## FOR TEACHERS - FLORIDA STATE STANDARDS:

---

1. Social Studies  
SS.4.A.1  
Standard 1: Historical Inquiry and Analysis
2. English Language Arts  
LAFS.3.SL.1  
Cluster 1: Comprehension and Collaboration
3. LAFS.4.W.3  
Cluster 3: Research to Build and Present Knowledge
4. Visual Arts  
VA.5.C.1.2  
Use prior knowledge and observation skills to reflect on, analyze, and interpret exemplary works of art.
5. Visual Arts  
VA.3.F.1.1  
Manipulate art media and incorporate a variety of subject matter to create imaginative artwork.

---

## KEY DISCUSSIONS

---

Educators will lead a discussion on how Guber delicately craft photography to formalize a plot and place that extends broader meaning about individuality, society, and the body.

During the initial discussion, questions will be posed that draw upon various motifs in Guber's installation and photography; students will also discuss how the drain in the exhibition metaphorically functions in the same way as a traditional painting by providing a window onto another world for the viewer.

Watch as students create works and give suggestions on how they should organize their thoughts and key ideas. Have them think about the message they want to communicate with their audience.

---

# VOCABULARY TERMS

---

## INSTALLATION

A work of art that usually consists of multiple components, often in mixed media, and that is usually exhibited in a large space and in an arrangement specified by the artist.

## CONTEMPORARY ART

Contemporary art is the art of today, produced in the late 20th century or in the 21st century. Contemporary artists work in a globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world.

## COMPOSITION

The placement or arrangement of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art; such as lines, shapes, forms and colors created by an artist.

## COMMEMORATIVE

A thing meant to honor an event

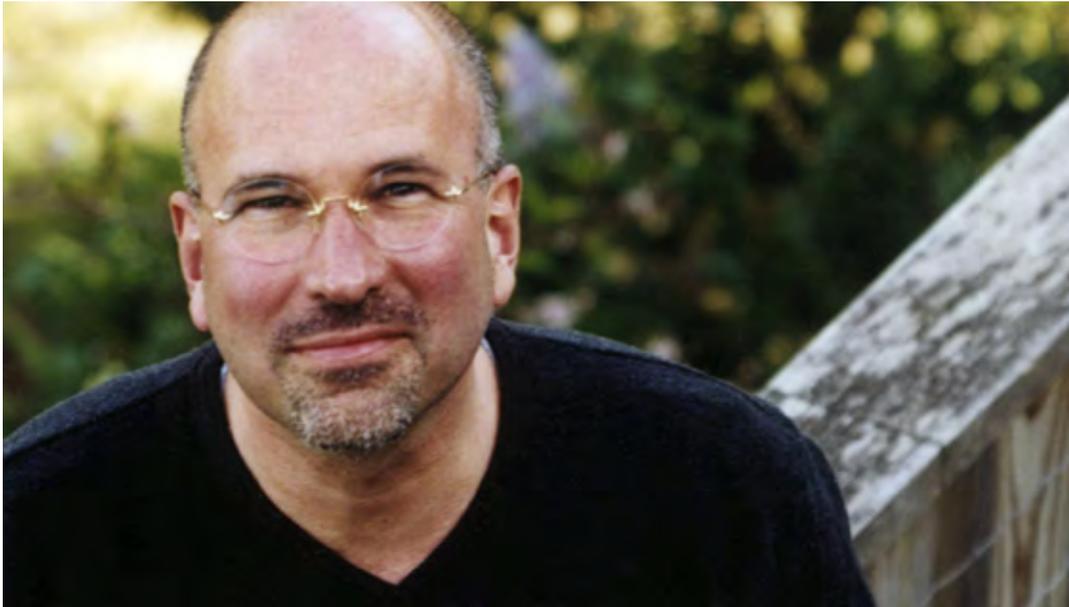
## THREE-DIMENSIONAL

Artwork in the round, which can be viewed from any direction

---

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

---



Robert Gober was born in 1954 in Wallingford, Connecticut. Since the mid-1980s he has created sculptures that include plumbing parts, including oversize body-like sinks and drains installed in unlikely places. These works remind us of the intimate bodily processes of personal hygiene and the systems that regulate them. Gober made his debut museum presentation in 1988 at the Art Institute of Chicago and since that time has presented his works internationally, at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2012); five presentations of the Whitney Biennial; and the Venice Biennale (2001), among many others. Solo presentations include a major retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2014–15).

---

## ABOUT THE WORK

---

This presentation of work by Robert Gober features the iconic sculpture *Untitled* (1993–94) and a portfolio of significant photographs, 1978–2000 (1978–2000). Over the last three decades, Gober has innovated through his surreal and topical recreations of common, domestic forms.

Since the mid-1980s he has created sculptures that incorporate plumbing elements, including oversize body-like sinks and drains installed in unlikely places. These works are at once mundane, familiar, and provocative, invoking the intimate bodily processes of personal hygiene and the systems that regulate them. In *Untitled*, a pale male body is installed below the floor, his heart replaced by a drain over which water gently laps.



Robert Gober, 1978-2000, 1978-2000  
Irma and Norman Braman

---

## ACTIVITY - COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOGRAPH

---

Age Range: 6-18 years old

Activity Duration: 40 minutes

**Activity:** Museum Educator will tour students and teachers through the Robert Gober installation. Students will discuss adding one additional image to commemorate Gober's work as a closing statement. **Activity prompt:** If you could add one additional image to commemorate this event, what would it be and why? Using a camera, have students create a final image and print it out along with their explanations.

(Think about the narrative being communicated, and the central themes in the installation)

Take photos that will add to the story that Robert Gober is telling through this series of work. After you've decided on which to use, imagine your picture in our museum placed right beside one of the photos we just looked at and write a short paragraph telling the story of the events leading to the photos.

For younger audiences, draw three pictures that tell a story about your life. Show us what you see everyday or things that you do.

---

## ACTIVITY MATERIALS

---

- Smart Phone/ Camera
- Photo paper for printer
- Small portable printer
- Color Pencils + Drawing Paper