

# DOCUMENTING DECO THROUGH PHOTOS

## Activity Six Lesson Plan

### Purpose

Using our new knowledge of Art Deco era style and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's role in preserving cultural history, students can:

- Recognize their neighborhood's Art Deco buildings
- Recognize landmarked buildings in the community
- Contribute new information on any Deco buildings to the Art Deco Building Registry & Map
- Document Deco through their own photographs

### Implementation Notes

This lesson is designed to provide a culminating activity that looks back at the previous lessons in the context of Documenting Deco through student's own photos. This lesson can also be a valuable addition to the Neighborhood Gems activity.

Instructor should review with students the information about the Art Deco style of architecture as well as the importance of the landmarking process to preserve evidence of the past for future generations.

### Video Clip

Introduce the lesson by explaining that Mr. Berenholtz is a renowned architectural photographer and author of *New York Deco*. In his video he offers students insight on his techniques to photograph Art Deco buildings.

Show the *Photography with Richard Berenholtz* video to your students. Students should use the Video Organizer to take notes as they watch the clip.

### Building Walk

This exercise is designed to give students an opportunity to experience the iconic Art Deco buildings that they have seen in materials throughout the program's activities. Seeing this selection of famous building in person allows students to view small design details up close. This walk will also give students an opportunity to photograph buildings using a class set of the Art Deco Society of New York's point-and-shoot cameras.

The Art Deco Society of New York can provide two tours of New York City's Art Deco Landmarks:

- The Rockefeller Center walking tour allows students to see suburb examples of Art Deco ornamentation within a few blocks. This walk does not require a lot of walking or crossing busy New York City streets and usually includes a stop for lunch in the underground concourse of 30 Rock.
- The Midtown Treasures walking tour allows students to see a selection of renowned Art Deco skyscrapers starting with the Chrysler Building and ending with the Empire State Building. This walk requires more walking and usual includes a stop for lunch on the terrace of the New York Public Library.

### Photography Exhibition

As an optional group activity to share what students have learned with the rest of the school, students can print and hang their photos from the culminating Building Walk to create their own exhibition. The instructor and the class should design implementation parameters.

### Ticket Out

This exercise will let students organize their plan if they would like to submit their photos to the Art Deco Society of New York.

For more information on the Ticket Out exercise, see the Appendix.

## In the Classroom

### Video Clip

Have students watch the *Photography with Richard Berenholtz* video. Students should use the Video Organizer to take notes as they watch the clip.

### Building Walk

Now that students know how to identify Art Deco buildings and have seen many examples of famous New York Art Deco buildings, take them on a walk to see what they can find. On the walk, students the Art Deco Society of New York's classroom set of point-and-shoot cameras to photograph the Art Deco buildings they find.

### Photography Exhibition

Students download and select their favorite photographs that they took on the Building Walk and hang them in a public space on campus to create their own photography exhibition.

### Ticket Out

If students would like to submit their photos to the Art Deco Society of New York they can fill out the final ticket out defining their project.

- My Art Deco Project I will:
- My finished project will be submitted:

## Materials

Materials available at [ArtDeco.org/Learn](http://ArtDeco.org/Learn):

- *Photography with Richard Berenholtz* Video (Running time: 6:36)
- Video Organizer handout
- The class set of Art Deco Society of New York cameras
- Documenting Deco Photo Submission Form
- Ticket Out handout

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# VIDEO ORGANIZER

As you view the video, take notes on what you see. A rough draft is acceptable. This is a note-taking tool that will be helpful in our discussions. Make sure to leave this sheet with your instructor, or deposit it in the appropriate place, before you leave the room.

**Video Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What I see:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What I hear:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**What I have a question about:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# DOCUMENTING DECO PHOTO FORM

All students in elementary, middle, and high schools are eligible to submit their Documenting Deco photos for posting on the Art Deco Society of New York website, ArtDeco.org. If you would like for your photo to be posted on the website, please fill out the information below and submit it to the Art Deco Society.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Community Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Building in this photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this Building a Landmark? \_\_\_\_\_

What made this building stand out to you? Why Did you choose this building to photograph?

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By signing below I certify that all of the information contained on this entry form is correct and truthful and grant permission for the Art Deco Society of New York to post my photo on their website and any use in their promotional materials.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries must be submitted to ADSNY by email to: [Learn@ArtDeco.org](mailto:Learn@ArtDeco.org)**

Terms & Conditions: Open only to students who, are enrolled in elementary, middle, or senior high schools in one of the five boroughs of New York City at the date of submission. Photos must be entrant's original work. ADSNY reserves the right to publish or display in electronic or print media all entries submitted to *Documenting Deco* and has the right to alter, amend, edit, or change entries prior to publication. By participating in *Documenting Deco*, organizations, instructors, and students agree to release and hold harmless ADSNY and its directors, officers, employees, sponsors, and Richard Berenholtz, from any and all losses, damages, rights, claims, and actions of any kind in connection with the *Documenting Deco* program.

