7: Ansel Adams

Ansel Adams is an American photographer who grew up in a house built by his father located on the dunes of San Francisco. As a young boy he was always exploring the ocean cliffs and nearby creeks; he would also spend his summers camping and hiking at Yosemite. This outdoor exploration led to Adams developing a deep love for the environment, which he later transformed into a form of advocacy. Using his artistic talents in the field of film photography, Adams captured dramatic realizations and the pure natural beauty of the America. His black and white photos were used in partnership with the Sierra Club to promote the protection and preservation of national parks and American wildlife. Adams was an environmentalist and talented photographer; these characteristics combined made him a powerful and recognizable spokesperson for organizations, such as the Sierra Club.

Examine It:
Various works and sculptures
https://www.anseladams.com

Re-create It:
Materials
- camera (you can use a digital camera, film camera, or simply a phone camera)
- outdoor landscape

Procedure

1. Using your camera, it’s time to capture the perfect landscape scene! Step outside and explore your natural environment to create dramatic landscape photographs similar to those by Ansel Adams
2. With your camera in hand, try using different zoom lenses, focal points, and perspectives. Consider which direction the sunlight is coming from, or if it’s a cloudy day, maybe use a flash to brighten up the photo?

3. Transform your images into powerful photographs that send a message to the world!

4. If you do not have a camera on hand, consider painting, drawing, coloring, or gluing together your own landscape design — it could be a copy of one of Ansel Adams’ photographs, or simply a depiction of your favorite natural place.

5. When completing this activity take time to consider the world around you; observe the natural elements, the colors you see, and the noises you hear. Don’t rush to complete your explorations but enjoy the simple moments outside!