

**Lesson 3: Willy Chavarria— Fashion as Identity & Community**

**Grade Level:** 6-12

**Focus:** Fashion as identity, cultural expression, visual analysis, vocabulary

**Willy Chavarria — Fashion as Identity & Community**

This lesson introduces students to the work of Willy Chavarria and explores how fashion functions as a form of identity, cultural expression, and social commentary. Students will analyze how clothing can communicate lived experience, challenge stereotypes, and reflect both personal and collective narratives.

The lesson begins with visual and cultural context, using imagery to introduce Chavarria’s connection to community and representation. Students will examine his work within this context, considering how fashion can remain rooted in culture while existing within high fashion spaces.

Through a guided gallery walk, students will analyze silhouettes, styling, and presentation, identifying key themes such as identity, dignity, and cultural pride. Students will discuss how visual elements—such as proportion, fabric, and styling—communicate meaning.

Students will then build vocabulary related to visual analysis and fashion, connecting terms to both historical and contemporary examples. This supports their ability to articulate how and why design choices matter.

Using these ideas, students will develop a concept for a garment, accessory, or visual piece that reflects their own identity or community. Through sketching and design, students will focus on storytelling, symbolism, and intentional design choices.