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OBJECTIVES:
1. Explore photographs by Los Angeles-based contemporary artist Torbjørn Rødland by describing what you see using details. Compare and contrast two works of art by the same artist using appropriate vocabulary.
2. Define texture using descriptive words. Compare and contrast various textures. Identify and describe textures seen in two different photographs.
3. Identify and define three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. Describe the physical characteristics of these states and use the photographs and scenes from daily life for reference.
4. Create a photograph that features at least two states of matter and various textures.

MATERIALS:
• Camera
• Assorted materials to photograph

WARM-UP:
In this lesson, students will be exploring textures and how they relate to states of matter. Invite students to share memories of textures they’ve experienced in their lives.
• The softest thing I’ve touched was ______________________________.
• The grossest thing I’ve touched was _____________________________. It was gross because _____.

If nothing comes to mind, set up a scenario where students might create memories. Fill an opaque bag with something soft, silky, or bumpy, or just with an interesting texture. Explore without looking and describe the feeling. Maybe do a quick sketch of what the surface might look like, then reveal the object. Invite students to collect objects with different textures to share.

LOOK:
Spend time with each image, then discuss them together. Model how to share observations using sensory language and invite students to be as descriptive as they wish. Torbjørn Rødland’s works of art often feature familiar elements in strange combinations or rich textures in unusual places. Sometimes his works of art draw you in while also pushing you away. In his scenes, something might be fascinating and gross at the same time.
Choose one image, and facilitate a discussion using these open-ended questions:
• What do you notice in this image? What is familiar? What is unusual? Where did your eye go first? Where did your imagination travel while looking? What questions do you have?
• Texture is how something feels. What textures do you see in this photograph? What might they feel like? What might they sound like if you touched them? How did the combinations surprise you?
• States of matter include solids, liquids, and gasses. What different states of matter do you notice? How do the different states interact?

CREATE AND DO:
After spending time discussing the two works of art by Torbjørn Rødland and how they present different textures and states of matter, explore the artist’s techniques by creating a work of art. Each student will create a scene that features two different states of matter along with varied textures.
• Plan what you want to share: Create a list of possible textures you would like to feature, and note where you might find them. Discuss how to include different states of matter. Possibilities include: towels, sweaters, clear/translucent cups, toys, shoes, or foil. For liquids: water, water with food coloring or watercolor added, jams/jellies, or candy with gels.
• Experiment with composition: In both of Torbjørn Rødland’s photographs, the placement of each object guides your eye and creates relationships. Think about how you’ll place your objects before you start snapping photos. Try out at least 3 different ways of arranging them. If you have it available, play with lighting and see how that changes the arrangement. Show off the differences between objects.
• Create your photograph: Set up the scene and experiment with your camera. Check various settings, and test out different angles or points of view. Once you’ve taken at least 5 different photos, select the best one. Make sure you’ve included 2 different states of matter along with a range of textures.
• **Share what you made:** Decide how you’ll share your creation with others. Ask them to describe the included textures and states of matter. What textures do you see? How would you describe them?