Curiosity Cabinets Unit – second grade:

Big Ideas:

* What is a museum and why do we have them?
* Why did museums start?
* What is a collection?
* What is a private and a public collection?
* How and why do you design an appropriate space for specific things?
* How and why do you categorize?
* What makes a meaningful display?
* What is a context? Why is context important?

Formal Skills:

* Planning and Envisioning
* Creating categories/searching and sorting
* Sculpture: Paper 3d construction with tabs
* Opportunities for color instruction

**DAY ONE**

Whole Group Discussion

* What is a Cabinet?
* What does Curiosity mean?

Look at images of historical Curiosity Cabinets

* Pass the picture and say a word- looking game

Look at some modern day collectors, whole group and partner conversation:

* What is a Collection?
* What do you collect?
* Is your collection private or public?

Collect images that you will later display

* Cut images out of magazines that connect together in some way
* Save the images in a specifically sized container (to control size of cabinet)

**DAY TWO**

* Examine thinking kit about contemporary artists who use “collection” or “curiosity cabinet” as a format.
  + Mark Dion
  + Georgina Valverde (Clutch Gallery/Society of Smallness)
  + MOMA exhibit Wonderkammer (wonder room) <http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2008/wunderkammer/flashsite/>
  + Nina Katchedourian (Geneology of the Supermarket)
  + Joseph Cornell (early/mid 20th century)
* Compare how artists use display and curation as an art form
* Draw how one or more of these artists collect their objects and make their displays.
* Continue to collect favorite images.

**DAY THREE**

* Share your image collection of images with a friend. Tell them why your images connect. What do they have in common? What is the ideological glue?
* Edit your images. Choose your public display.
* Plan in sketchbook: Draw your display space (curiosity cabinet)

**DAY FOUR**

* Watch paper construction demonstration
* Whole group discuss what makes a good paper cabinet. Build criteria together. Teacher scribes.
* Start to build your paper curiosity cabinet to display your image collection
* At the end of class go back to that friend and critique your cabinets based on the class criteria

THIS COULD GO ONE MORE DAY OF HIGHLIGHTING SOME STUDENT WORK AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, WORKING, AND BUDDY CRITIQUE. IT COULD END WITH A GALLERY WALK, PUBLIC EXHIBITION, SHARING WITH ANOTHER CLASS, ETC.