



Art Outreach Program

Projects & Lesson Plan: Balloon and Plaster Sculpture

TK-5TH GRADE PLASTER PROJECT

Lesson Overview:

Students will learn about Niki de Saint Phalle's Personal & Artistic Biography; and view other artist work which inspired the final project. Students will learn the art of sculpture through materials like plaster and wood. Students will analyze positive and negative space, a juxtaposition of distinct materials, and use form and shape to create a sculpture of their own

Project Overview:

Students will use plaster, balloons to mold a sculpture by using different tools to create grooves and imprints onto their plaster sculpture.

ART VOCABULARY:

Sculpture: Making a 3-dimensional art piece, by carving or casting

Positive & Negative Space: Positive Space is occupied, Negative space is empty

Plaster: A mixture of lime and sand that can be molded with the use of water, and once it is dry maintains its shape.

Shape: flat or two-dimensional enclosed area. (circle, triangle, square rectangle) there are geometric shapes and organic shapes.

Form: A three-dimensional shape, a form takes up space and can be both geometric and organic

Geometric: Shapes or forms that are made up of pointed edges and straight lines. Except the circle! The shapes and forms you can name: Triangle Square, cube, cylinder.

Organic: Shapes or form that are made up of loose curved lines that are abstract or resemble objects found in nature. the shape of a puddle, a bunch of bananas, a caterpillar.



Niki de Saint Phalle-*Nana Boule* 1972

Notice the organic shape, and imagine the organic form this sculpture would have if you held it in your hands.



Niki de Saint Phalle
Pouf Serpent (Snake
Chair) 1991

Notice the organic shape the snake creates as it wraps its self around the blue base.

LEARN ABOUT NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE

Background:

- Niki de Saint Phalle, Born Catherine Marie Angès Fal de Saint Phalle on October 29th 1930, was a Franco-American artist. She lived in many places such as New York, Paris, Tuscany, and San Diego! She did not go to art school and was not professionally trained, that is why her art works is often known as "outsider art." Her works are found in many countries, such as Germany, France, the US, Japan, Italy, Sweden, and Taiwan. She is a world renowned artist that has had many exhibitions in her lifetime and continues to after her death.

Art in the making:

- Throughout her life Niki worked with many mediums. Paint, stickers, found objects, resins, clay, plaster, for sculptures, as well as ceramic tiles, and stones from which she created paintings, prints, assemblages, sculptures and sculpture gardens, and even houses!

- While Niki is mostly known for her sculptural work she created in many sizes, she also made art that serves utilitarian purposes. Some of the functional art she created are sculpture vases, lamps, chairs, benches and mirrors.

- Located in Escondido, Queen Califia's Magic Circle is filled with totems covered in Mosaics of mirrors, hand made tiles and a variety of stones and quartz. This was a gift to the people of California, since Niki lived in Southern California from 1993 until her death in 2002. In this sculpture garden, Niki has made many totems that are meant to honor Queen Califia.



Niki de Saint Phalle-Coming Together 2001, Notice the organic and geometric shapes created by the negative space within the face of the sculpture.

- Examples of some of the reoccurring animals in the artists work: Birds, Reptiles (Dragon, Alligator, Snakes) Rhinos, Cats, Horses

- Have you seen any of Niki's sculptures around San Diego?

- Waterfront Park
- Liberty Station (2019)
- La Jolla
- UCSD
- Escondido



Niki de Saint Phalle Queen Califia Magic Circle 2002, Notice the organic and geometric shapes created by the sculptures in the garden

Use your art vocabulary to describe and think about these influential art works



Janine Antoni-Graft 2013
Notice the unity created by the monochrome aspect of the sculpture



Chantal Wnuk-San Diego Objects 2016
Notice the mixed materials used in these sculptures, Stone, wood, and paint.



Louise Bourgeois-Fear Four
Notice the organic negative space within the sculpture. and the use of mixed materials, wood and marble.



Louise Bourgeois-Sleep II
Notice the organic abstract shape placed on a geometric wooden base

Start the project

MATERIALS

- Plaster
- Water
- Balloons
- Sand Paper
- Tempera Paint
- Funnels/Plastic Water Bottles
- Paint container
- Stir sticks
- Balloon pump
- Mixing containers

Optional Materials:

- Rubber bands/
Thread
- Recycled wood
blocks

PROJECT:

PREPARE:

Pump up and deflate all balloons before hand.

Each student should have 1 16oz water bottle with a small spout opening. Cut the top of the bottle so as to create a funnel, the other half will be used to mix the plaster.

Alternatively you may have small funnels, and a designated mixing pitcher or container.

Place all stretched out balloons on the small mouth of the funnel and set aside on the students work area.

STEPS :

1.Mix plaster with cold water accordingly to ratio in your cup, or in a small bucket for a group pour.

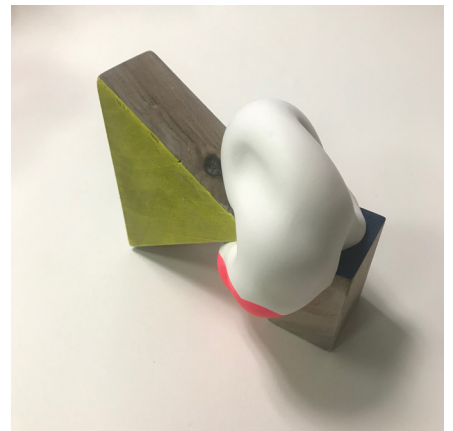
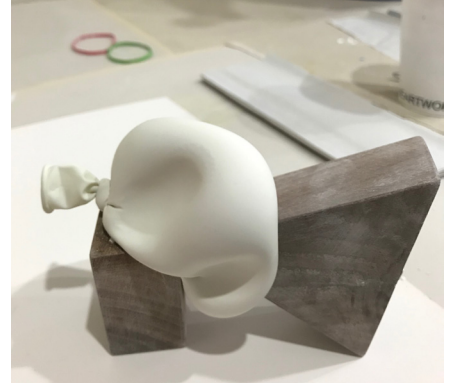
2.Pour plaster into "funnel" of each student and fill up balloon

3.Tie balloon immediately, with the least amount of air left inside, and allow students to mold the plaster filled balloon to their liking.

4.The plaster will start to turn hot when it starts to set. Students must hold the shape until the plaster sets completely. 1-2 minutes.

5.Once plaster is hard, cut off the balloon. Students will have sand paper to smooth off any surfaces they would like (do this outside) and allow up to 5 mins for smoothing and touching up

6.To create a unifying work create a color harmony of 3 hues and allow students to dip a portion of their sculpture into paint for a colorful, yet alternative use of paint.



STUDENT SAMPLES

