



Art Outreach Program

Assemblage Non-figurative Portrait

7TH-12TH GRADE: ASSEMBLAGE AND COLLAGE PROJECT

LESSON OVERVIEW:

Students will learn about Niki de Saint Phalle's Personal & Artistic Biography. Students will also learn to about non-figurative portraits through the works of a variety contemporary artists. Students will analyze self-image, self-perception and discuss their personal impact on the world around them.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Students will learn the basics of collage and assemblage art process, and how to arrange and use an array of images and objects to produce an original work. They will learn the art non-figurative portraiture, as well learning the coexistence of text in or as art work.

ART VOCABULARY:

Assemblage: a three-dimensional art piece made up of a collected assortment of objects

Portrait: an artistic representation of a person, in which the face and its expression is predominant. The intent is to display the likeness, personality, and even the mood of the person.

Non-figurative: a visual concept that represents something without using its literal physical aspect

Space: the distance or areas around, between and within components of a work. Space can be positive/negative, open/closed, shallow/deep, or 2D/3D.

Unity: a compositional strategy that uses space to make the parts of a work of art function as a whole.

Rhythm: suggests movement or action through visual cues, like repetition of lines, shapes, colors, materials.

Balance: the sense of distribution of a visual weight.



Niki de Saint Phalle *Tu est Moi* 1960
Notice the collected material used in this assemblage, everyday tools and a toy gun.

LEARN ABOUT NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE

Background:

- Niki de Saint Phalle, born Catherine Marie Agnès 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 with many exhibitions in her lifetime and 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, and created, paintings, lithographs, assemblages, sculptures, houses, and sculpture gardens.

- Niki started creating "Tirs" or "Shooting paintings", where she placed little plastic bags filled with paint, and small objects on a board covered with plaster (an assemblage). Then she shot the painting so the paint would spill out and cover all the objects. Niki thought it was a good way to let out any anger, or make stance about. She also invited the audience to shoot at the assemblages as a part of her performance and happening.

- What is an Assemblage:

- This is a type of art sculpture where the piece is made by using objects, can be found objects or not and the objects are organized or placed on a larger form to create a type of 3-dimensional collage.

- What is Performance Art?

- Using dramatic performance in combination with visual arts

- In the United States, Niki made a sculpture garden. Located in Escondido, Queen Califia's Magic Circle is filled with totems covered in



Niki de Saint Phalle- *Portrait of My Lover*
Notice how the artist used a collection of objects to represent her "lover" without actually creating his face.

mosaics of mirrors, hand-made tiles and stones. This was a gift to the people of California, since she lived in La Jolla from 1993 until her death in 2002. In this sculpture garden, Niki has made many totems that are meant to honor Queen Califia.

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

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

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

Learn About Portraiture



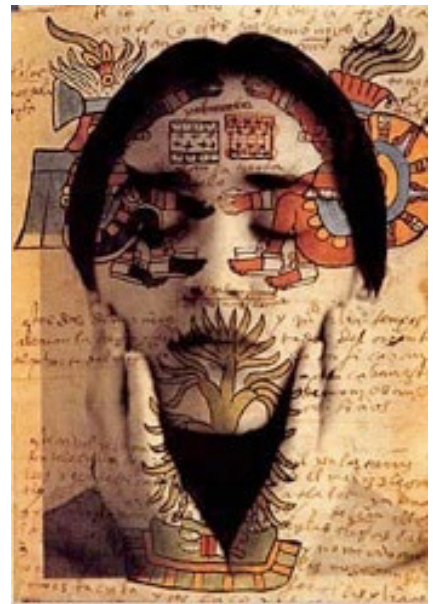
Kahendi Wiley -
Painter
President Barack Obama 2018

The lush background symbolizes former President Obama's personal story: Jasmine represents his birthplace of Hawaii, African blue lilies are an homage to his Kenyan father, and Chrysanthemums are the official flower of Chicago.



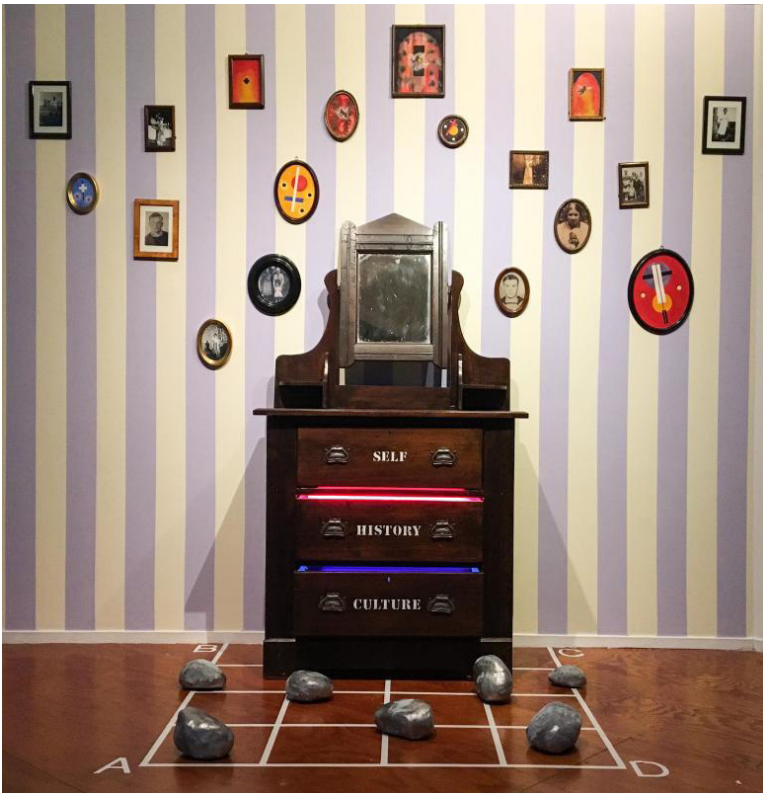
Janine Antoni
Sculptor, Photographer,
Performance Artist
Lick and Lather 1994

"Lick and Lather" is a sculpture consisting of 14 busts made of chocolate and soap. The artist bit, gnawed, and licked the chocolate busts to alter its features, and bathed with, and washed the soap busts to do the same.



Tatiana Percero
Photographer
Interior Cartography #35 1995

Percero's work explores the body and its implicated connections to identity and the natural world. This image shows the portrait image is under script, and images of Meso-American cultures, her portrait encompasses her historical past and uses roots as a form of representation and expression rather than her eyes.



Gordon Bennett was an Australian artist who's work challenges and deconstructed the concept of Identity, mainly his own. This portrait is a deconstruction of his identity through his heritage and the context of his heritage in his country's history

Gordon Bennett
Installation artist, Sculptor
Painter
Self Portrait 1992



Tracey Emin
Installation Artist, Sculptor,
Photographer
*I Don't Expect To Be A
Mother 2002*



Tracey Emin
Installation Artist, Sculptor, Photographer
Bed 1998

Tracey Emin is part of the Young British Artist period. Her work is always very personal and biographical. For example this appliquéd blanket piece describes her decision to not have children. And the image below shows her actual bed after a four day long episode of depression. While these works do not represent her figuratively they show a glimpse into her humanity which is an important aspect of a portrait.



Bob Clyatt
Sculptor
Cultural Landscape
Series #45,

Bob Clyatt is an artist that uses objects that reflect current cultural themes, and creates molds to make assemblages that are a snap shot of current societal and cultural times. In this piece you can see a combination of parts toys, ordinary house hold items, and logos of all types.

PROMPT QUESTION:

- Who knows you better than yourself?

In non-figurative portraiture artists experiment with objects, symbols, and materials to communicate who they are and what they stand for, or a reflexion of themselves at one particular moment in time. Taking look at the works on the left, one may take inspiration from hereditary culture, pop-culture, ancestors, or objects that reflect your day to day life. Take into consideration your own personality and how you chose to share with others on a day to day basis an what you don't.

- What are some of your pass times that are enjoyable but also bring you a new view of the world around you?

- How do you choose visual language to communicate with others who you are?

MATERIALS:

- Canvas Board / Wood panel
- Pencil
- Found objects:
 - Wire/toys/stones/grains seeds
- Tacky glue or glue gun
- Magazine or Photographs

PROJECT:

- Students will gather found objects that represent them, print meaningful images, and use magazines to find further imagery to represent their likings and personality.
- Students will arrange the objects and material on their canvas panel, wood panel, or cardboard backing, and glue down items.
- Have students discuss their work and describe why and how the objects and images they chose represent them.

STUDENT SAMPLES

