



# 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

### Protect Overview:

Students will use plaster and 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 forms that are made up of loose curved lines. They 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.*

# 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 from which she created paintings, prints, assemblages, sculptures, houses, and even sculpture gardens.

• Niki is mostly known for her sculptural work. She created sculptures in many sizes, some are gigantic, some are small. They can also have different uses, which is called "Functional Art", for example sculpture vases and lamps, chairs, benches and mirrors.

• In the United States, Niki made a sculpture garden. Located in Escondido, "Queen Califia's Magic Circle" is filled with totems covered in mosaics of mirrors, hand-made tiles and locally-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, the mythical Goddess of the lands of California.

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



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

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

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

*Niki de Saint Phalle  
Pouf Serpent (Snake chair)  
1991*

*Notice the organic shape wraps around the geometric blue shape you can sit on*



**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.*



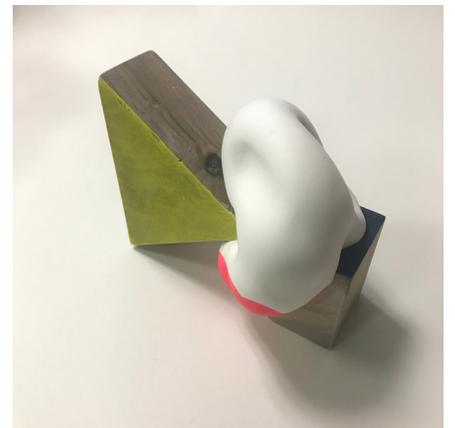
*Dame Barbara Hepworth - Mother and Child  
Notice the organic abstract shape placed on a geometric/oval base*

## 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 beforehand. 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 balloons on the small mouth of the funnel and set aside on the students work area.

### STEPS

1. Mix plaster with cold water according 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 and allow students to mold the plaster-filled balloon to their liking. The plaster will start to turn hot when it starts to set. Students must hold the shape until the plaster sets completely.

4. Let plaster set (30sec-1 min)

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 the paint for a colorful yet alternative use of paint.

# STUDENT SAMPLES

