

Preserving Stories Through Drawing

Inspired by Artist Victor Cicansky

Grades: K-7

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Activity

In this lesson, students explore the artwork of Canadian artist **Victor Cicansky**, focusing on his playful ceramic “fish jars.” Students reflect on the idea of **preserving memories and stories** and create drawings of jars filled with their own collections of personal significance.

Inquiry Questions

What memories or objects would you like to “save” or “preserve”?
What objects would you select to represent your own stories?

About the Artist

Victor Cicansky was a Canadian sculptor born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1935, known for his humorous and imaginative ceramic works inspired by everyday life. His art often reflects his upbringing in a working-class, garden-centered community, incorporating themes of food, gardening, and preservation. A key figure in the Regina Clay Movement, he created sculptures such as jars filled with fruits, vegetables, or fish, blending personal storytelling with a strong sense of place and culture.

Cicansky’s fish jars are ceramic sculptures designed to resemble preserved jars of food. These works combine realism with whimsy, transforming a familiar household object into a storytelling vessel. The jars can represent **saving memories, telling stories, or preserving something important.**

Steps:

- Use the jar tracers included at the end of this document and trace 3 jars on a sheet of paper
- Draw a label on each jar.
- Fill each jar with drawings of objects that represent personal stories and memories.
- Add colour using watercolours paints.
- Write a descriptive label for each jar.



Victor Cicansky, *Game Preserve, the Ones That Got Away (A/P)*, Earthenware & Glaze, 2010.



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