

Fragmented Faces: Portraits in Pastel and Paint

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TOPICS: Techniques for blending and patterning with pastels; Using stencils to aid in isolating and recombining imagery; Creating abstract imagery

SUBJECT(S): Visual Arts

GRADE(S): K-3

UNIT DURATION: 3 lessons



Tiko Kerr, *Fish Tank*, paper collage, 5.3 x 4 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

OVERVIEW & CULMINATING

TASK: In this lesson students will explore the paper cut collage works of Canadian artist Tiko Kerr. In his collages, Kerr investigates the ways in which memory, emotion, and personal narrative influence perception. Kerr creates minimal narrative spaces through blending, fragmenting, and abstracting a variety of source materials. He makes use of humour as well as imagery from popular culture.

Students will create an abstract portrait using techniques for drawing with oil pastels, stencilling, collage, and painting.

BIG IDEAS (What students will understand):

- Engagement in the arts creates opportunities for inquiry through purposeful play. (Arts Education K)
- Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice. (Arts Education 3)

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES (What students will do):

- Explore elements, processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, and techniques of the arts
- Describe and respond to works of art
- Create artistic works using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

CONCEPTS & CONTENT (What students will know):

- Image development strategies
- Elements of visual art; principles of design

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) (What students will keep considering):

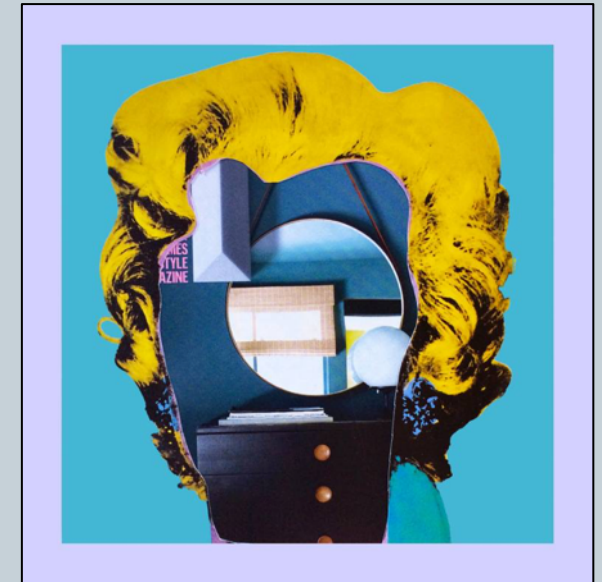
- How can I use oil pastels to blend, overlap, and create patterns in the creation of an abstract design?
- What techniques do artists use to isolate and recombine imagery?

FIRST PEOPLES' PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING:

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGIES:

- digital Images of collages by Tiko Kerr (see end of document)
- digital projector/computer
- 11.5"x11.5" pre-cut thick white paper (i.e. cardstock or opaque vellum) (1 per student)
- warm coloured oil pastels and black oil pastels (sorted)
- 3"x3" square of colourful paper from magazines, calendars, etc. (1 warm and 1 cool colour swatch per student)
- premixed tempera paint (4 cool colours & 4 warm colours)
- brushes
- paint pots
- scissors
- glue sticks
- masking tape
- class set of face shape stencils made from thick paper or cardstock (see end of document for printable stencil templates)



Tiko Kerr, *Mid Century Modern (after Warhol)*, paper cut collage, 9 x 9 inches framed. Image courtesy of the artist.

VOCABULARY:

collage, abstraction, stencil, portrait, silhouette, recombine, fragment, colour palette, warm colours, cool colours, opaque, transparent, horizon line, blend, pattern

RESOURCES & REFERENCES:

- <https://www.saatchiart.com/tikokerr>
- <http://www.tikokerr.com>
- <http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/glossary/>
- <https://www.artforkidshub.com/how-to-blend-with-oil-pastels/>
- <https://www.kitchentableclassroom.com/oil-pastel-techniques-for-kids/>

ADAPTATIONS & MODIFICATIONS:

Students with difficulties using scissors may need to have their collage paper pre-cut into smaller pieces. Students with hand function difficulties may need thick handled brushes and pastels.

DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES (Teacher Action/Student Action):



Tiko Kerr, *An Elegant Departure*, paper cut collage, 12 x 12 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

LESSON #1 (intro to Tiko Kerr and stencilled face creation):

- Introduce students to the artwork of Tiko Kerr. View examples of Kerr's collages with face silhouettes and pose questions for discussion: How has Kerr made use of images from other artists in these collages? Describe the colours that Kerr has included in his collages. Why might an artist create a portrait that is abstract, rather than realistic?
- View examples of Kerr's abstract collages and pose questions for

discussion: Describe the colours that Kerr has used in his collages. Describe Kerr's use of blending and patterning in his collages.

- Give each student a swatch of 3"x3" collage paper in a warm colour palette.
- Have the students cut their collage swatch into 3-4 random shapes (avoid small detailed cuts).
- Randomly distribute face shape stencils (see end of document for printable stencil templates) and have students tape them to their 11.5"x11.5" pre-cut thick white paper so that the face shape is roughly centered.
- Have students glue their pieces of collage paper inside the face shape using glue sticks.
- Demonstrate to students techniques for blending and layering oil pastels (see resources and references section for ideas). Discuss and demonstrate the difference between opaque and transparent use of pastels.
- Have students fill the remaining space within the face stencil using strategies for blending and patterning with warm coloured oil pastels. Have students draw an outline around the edge of the face shape using black pastel.
- Have students remove the face stencil from their sheet of paper.

LESSON #2 (drawing and painting the figure):

- Have students use a black pastel to draw the outline of shoulders and clothing as well as hair (and/or a hat) around the face shape that the created in the previous lesson.
- Have students draw a horizon line to divide the background space using a black pastel.
- Have students draw patterns inside the shoulders and hair using warm coloured pastels and strategies for opaque (rather than transparent) mark-making.
- Have students choose 2 warm paint colours and fill their figure's hair with one colour and their shoulders with another.

LESSON #3 (collaging and painting the background):

- Give each student a swatch of 3"x3" collage paper in a cool colour palette.
- Have the students cut their collage swatch into 3-4 random shapes (avoid small detailed cuts).
- Have students glue their pieces of collage paper in the background using glue sticks.
- Have students choose 2 cool paint colours and fill the 2 sections of the background (1 colour per section), being careful to paint around the collage pieces.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

After creating their pastel swatches in Lesson #1, have students lay them out on their desks and walk around the classroom to observe their peer's work. Facilitate a class discussion using the following prompts: Identify examples in which your classmate made use of blending, patterning, and layering using pastel.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

After students complete their collages in Lesson #3, have them reflect on the following questions: How can I use oil pastels to blend, overlap, and create patterns in the creation of an abstract design? What techniques do artists use to select and recombine images?



Tiko Kerr, *Three Musicians*, paper collage, 10.3 x 9 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

AFK RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:

Looking for more art lesson ideas? Looking for ways to connect art to other areas of the curriculum? Visit the AFK Resources page to find lesson plans for all grade levels!

<http://tiny.cc/AFKResources>

EXTENSIONS & POSSIBLE CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:

Have students brainstorm titles for their finished collages. Pose the following questions to prompt students to brainstorm words to incorporate into their titles: What colours stand out the most within your collage? What kind of character might this portrait depict? What is their personality like?



Teacher Sample, AFK



Artworks by Kindergarten Students at Dorothy Lynas Elementary, AFK Outreach Program



Tiko Kerr, *Mid Century Modern (after Warhol)*, paper cut collage, 9 x 9 inches framed. Image courtesy of the artist.



Tiko Kerr, *Three Musicians*, paper collage,
10.3 x 9 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

