

MASTERS OF ART

Suggested artists and activities:

Before introducing an artist to the children, tell them a bit about the artist; read a book about the artist, if possible; show them examples of the artist's work; discuss it critically; discuss how they might make something in the style of the artist.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON – 1785-1851 *artist, naturalist*

PROJECT...to draw a bug or another creature from nature

- Materials needed: a jar to hold bug, drawing paper, pencil, paints and brushes, markers, colored pencils

PROCESS...

- Take children outdoors and encourage them to find a bug. Have them place their bug in a jar covered with foil with air holes or use a bug jar.
- Examine the bug using a magnifying glass. Encourage children to notice all the parts and colors.
- Ask child to draw the bug larger than life-size.
- Color the finished drawing with child's choice of materials.
- Put the bug back in its natural habitat.

Instead of or in addition to, observe classroom animals. If no "wildlife" is available, plastic animals, snakes and/or bugs can be used.

THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL – 1904-1991 (Dr. Seuss) *Author, artist*

PROJECT...to create a creature using your imagination

- Materials needed: crayons or colored pencils, paper

PROCESS...

- Draw an animal or person-type character using your imagination: give it multiple eyes, ears from another animal, many feet, any color – anything you can imagine .
- Ask the children to tell a sentence or story to go with the character and/or name the drawing.

ANSEL ADAMS – 1902-1984 – *Photographer.*

PROJECT...to photograph a person or something in nature

- Materials needed: a camera and printer, a person, a flower, (or other natural object) paper, glue, scissors

PROCESS...

- This is best done on a bright and sunny day, but in the shade. Select a place with a simple background. Instruct the child to get close enough to the subject that the subject fills the viewfinder. Take photos from the front and from the sides. If photographing a person, ask the subject to use a variety of facial expressions. Depending on your circumstances, the child or the teacher can choose pictures to print. Mount one or more pictures on the paper in any way the child desires. Encourage the child to try different arrangements before gluing. Play with printing multiple pictures of the same thing and mounting them in a pleasing arrangement.

ALEXANDER CALDER – 1898 – 1976 - Abstract sculptor.

PROJECT...to make a stabile using a rock or clay as a base

- Materials needed: rock, clay, pipe cleaners (regular and fuzzy), wire, floral wire, scissors and wire cutters (adult help if necessary), paper scraps (patterned, plain, foil, tissue paper), buttons, yarn, ribbons, fabric pieces, shredded paper, sequins, etc., glue, tape, stapler. The clay can be purchased or you can use salt dough.

PROCESS...

- Bend and twist wires around the base, having some wires placed in different directions – some standing up, some bent, some twisted. Add other objects by gluing, taping and/or stapling as desired.

JACKSON POLLOCK – 1912-1956 – Abstract Expressionist

PROJECT ...to make a Pollock-style painting. This is best done outside.

- Materials needed: tempera or acrylic paints, thinned, if necessary, to pour and splatter, canvas or poster board spread on ground, paintbrushes, toothbrushes, slender sticks, spray bottles. If desired, spread a plastic cloth under the paper/canvas to protect the ground.

PROCESS...

- Pour paint into various containers and/or spray bottles.
- Moving around the canvas, splatter, spray, squirt, pour paint on the canvas using your choice of colors.
- May be done individually or by a group of children. Let dry completely.

ANDY WARHOL – 1928 – 1987 Pop Artist, painter and film maker.

PROJECT...to make a Warhol inspired drawing.

- Materials needed: colored pencils, pencils, markers. After a discussion with the children, you might want to have some household objects, food containers, pictures of animals to use as models.

PROCESS...

- Some of Warhol's pictures were line drawings, some were brightly colored. Discuss with children which they might like to make. Using pencils, draw picture. They can choose to color their work or not.

HENRI MATISSE - 1869 – 1954 French artist, known for his use of bright color.

PROJECT... to make a colorful Matisse-style piece of art

- Materials needed: copy paper in bright colors, construction paper, tissue paper, scissors, glue, paper for base

PROCESS...

- Encourage children to cut irregular shapes from a variety of colored paper.
- Have children place their shapes on paper and move them around to find which arrangement they like best. Glue cut shapes on paper. Tissue paper can be glued on by painting with thinned white glue. .

CLAUDE MONET- 1840-1926 *French painter who used short brush strokes and splashes of color.*

PROJECT... make a watercolor painting

- Materials needed: watercolor paints, paintbrushes, watercolor paper, jar of water. Paintings may be done from pictures Monet painted or by going outdoors and setting up a table or easel by a garden.

PROCESS...

- Try painting using short brush strokes and splashes of color on wet paper and on dry paper. Decide which you like best.
- Paint your interpretation of a Monet. Let dry.

WASSILY KANDINSKY – 1866-1944 *Impressionist painter and a musician. He thought of colors as music.*

PROJECT...painting to music

- Materials needed: paints (watercolors, tempera or acrylic), paper (some large, some small), paint brushes, CD and player.

PROCESS...

- Listen to a piece of music and think about what colors it makes you think of; what kind of lines (straight, squiggly, thick, thin); what kind of shapes (large, small, irregular, geometric)
- Replay music and paint while listening a second time.
- Try listening/painting to fast music such as Rimsky – Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* and slow music such as Vivaldi's *Largo from Winter (The Four Seasons)*
- Other suggested music: *In the Hall of the Mountain King* (Grieg), *The Entertainer* (Scott Joplin)