



ART PROJECTS AT HOME

Drawing with Scissors: Beginners

Description:

Drawing with scissors is a technique that follows in the footsteps of master artist Matisse in creating lines and shapes using only colored paper. This unique approach to image making allows the artist to experiment with color and composition to better understand balance. Artists will use cutting and tearing to define a variety of shapes to be arranged on a colored background to create a completed artwork. Students will also look to the work of Giuseppe Archimboldo in creating their own assembled animals.

Master Artists /

Art Historical References:

Henri Matisse
Giuseppe Archimboldo

Medium: Mixed Media

Age Levels: 5 - 6 years old,
7 - 9 years old

Needed Materials:

- 9 x 12" Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Glue or Glue Stick

Attributions:

Virtual Learning Project Developer: Augustine Smith

Curriculum Developer: Tamah Minnis

Essential Terms:

- Balance: the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture, and space
- Cutting: the art form of cutting paper with sharp scissors or a knife
- Tearing: to split the fibers of something by pulling apart, usually so as to leave ragged or irregular edges

Primary Goals and Related National Standards:

- Students will be able to create a balanced composition using cut and torn paper.
- Students will be able to develop a color scheme within their artwork.
- Students will be able to neatly cut or tear a desired shape.

Rationale:

Drawing with scissors is a tool that allows for students to grow creative ideas out of limited materials. Sometimes our limitations can become our strengths! Henri Matisse developed this method of artmaking to be able to continue his artistic practice and adapt to the physical limitations that came with his age.



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Procedure:

1. Choose your base color paper. This paper will remain intact.
2. Choose the colors of paper you would like to use for the rest of your artwork.
3. Find a household object that you would like to transform. Trace this object onto your paper.
4. Cut or tear along the lines you have drawn.
5. Once you have cut and torn your shape, use paper scraps to create a collaged animal creation. Try multiple compositions before gluing them down. Is your composition balanced? Are there too many shapes in one area? Is there a large blank space? Take your time looking at your arrangements to find what works best.
6. Once you have chosen your composition, glue down your paper cut outs to create your finished artwork!

Bonus Tips:

- Tearing paper can create an edge with more texture and depth than a cut edge. Experiment with both cutting and tearing and find what combination works best for your unique artwork.
- Take photos of your multiple paper arrangements to compare your compositions and color combinations. This makes it easier to choose which one truly works best.