



Hakunna Mask Matata

Instructor Name: Christopher Nettey

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Semester: SUMMER 2024, Session II

Days: Monday to Friday, June 10-14

Time: 10am-12pm

Course Description:

Inspired by the use of African masks in celebrating occasions like crop harvest and festive occasions, students will use a variety of art techniques to assemble an African mask and use it to replicate an African cultural event. Students will learn about positive and negative spaces as well as shape and contrast while creating their masks!

What will you learn?

African masks are famous for their use in ceremonial events like bountiful crop harvest, traditional rites, and puppetry. They have interesting, exaggerated features, colors, and shapes. Students will learn how many of these colors are synonymous and relevant to their cultures. They will identify some selected masks like the Fanti mask from Ghana, the Mende mask from Sierra Leone, and the Plank mask from the Bobo tribe of Burkina Faso, and what these masks are used for.

Materials

Materials will be provided by the Firehouse.

Class Schedule:

First Class: In this first section of the class, students would explore and understand the use of positive and negative spaces to achieve the contrast they would need for their mask forms, and this would all be done with various colors of paper and glue. They would cut the paper into various strips and shapes of their choice, and with the help of the provided examples, we should explore various design techniques that would be made available through my instructions. Students would complete this mask at the end of the class period.

Second Class: In this second class, students will build on the techniques they have learned in the first class. In this section, they would work on a firm surface using cardboard. The students would work on 3-dimensional design, and they would form the nose, ears, and other protruding parts of the mask. With the help of my provided demonstrations, they will finish this piece by the end of the class period.

Third Class: Students in this third mask class would be able to identify some indigenous mask and their origin. They would explore this mask using Styrofoam and paper additions. Students should know the color palette that is needed to create the harmony they desire in their cultural representations. They would fully understand negative and positive space and understand color contrasts while they finish these pieces before the end of the class time.



Fourth Class: Students will learn the technique of Calixte Dakpogan mask-making while using various combinations to create their collage assembly. Students will finish up with intricate tribal patterns from various paper cuts and the use of markers, and colored pencils to enhance tribal lines/marks.

Fifth Class:

Students will put the final touches on their projects and will present their work in a mini exhibition.