

SUMMER CAMPS

MIDLAND
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS

Picasso Self- Portrait

Description: Students will create their own self-portrait using washable paint and oil pastel inspired by Pablo Picasso's Imaginary Portrait series.

Recommended Ages: Grades 1st-6th

Materials:

- Washable or tempera paint: red, yellow, blue, white
- Black oil pastel (black permanent marker can be substituted)
- Cardboard cut into 12 by 9 in rectangle
- Water
- Paintbrush
- Plate or palette

Procedure:

1. Late in his career, 87-year-old Pablo Picasso had packages of art supplies delivered to his studio on the French Riviera. The supplies were wrapped in cardboard for protection. Picasso was inspired by the large cardboard panels leaning against his wall and decided they would make a wonderful canvas for painting. Picasso created twenty nine 'imaginary portraits' in colorful gouache on the cardboard panels. Many of these portraits represent famous individuals, including Balzac, Shakespeare and others. Later, these paintings were turned into lithographic prints.
2. Look at examples of Picasso's portraits below. What do you notice about them? What colors do you see? Do they look like photographs of real people or do they look like something from his imagination? What types of lines do you see? What types of shapes do you see? These portraits are abstract, which means that it is art that does not represent or look like our everyday world. He also only used primary colors (red, blue, yellow), secondary colors (orange, purple, etc.), black, and white paint.
3. Now, you will need to decide who is going to inspire your portrait. Will you create an imaginary portrait of your favorite storybook character, pet, friend, or family member? Once you have decided on a subject (the person you will paint), take a careful look at them. What shapes do you see in their clothing and face?
4. Once you have decided on your subject, you can begin painting! Start by painting shapes for the person's head, hair, and clothing. Make sure you experiment with using different primary colors!

5. Give your painting some time to dry. After it has dried, use a black marker or oil pastel to add your details! Think about adding patterns to the clothing, adding eyes, eyebrows and a mouth. Just remember, this is an imaginary portrait! Facial features do not need to be placed where they would be in real life!
6. Once finished, post or share your masterpiece! Make sure to tag us at #MakeArtVirtual!

Images:



Pablo Picasso, *Portrait Imaginaire-21.2.69* and *Portrait Imaginaire- 22.2.69*