

WEEKLY THEME:

ART GALLERY

Developed by Rachel Fink

DAY ONE: MICHELANGELO + WASSILY KANDINSKY

MORNING SESSION:
MICHELANGELO

The pacing of this project is completely up to you and your family. You can do as few or as many artists as you want. You can finish everything in a week or stretch it out to two weeks. The idea is to have fun and get joy out of it, so take your time and follow your child’s lead!

STARTER

Have you ever been to an art gallery or museum? What did you see there? Was there someone who showed you around? We are going to make a gallery/museum like that right in our own house!

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Michelangelo to present to your child. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life. Focus in particular on The Sistine Chapel. [Here](#) is a fantastic short video about the painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

BOOKS

Michelangelo by Diane Stanley
Michelangelo for Kids: His Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities (For Kids series) by Simonetta Carr

ART IDEA

Sistine Chapel Painting

It took Michelangelo 4 years to paint the Sistine Chapel. He painted some of his work lying down and some of it with his head bent back, looking up. Tape a large piece of butcher paper underneath a table and lie down underneath it. Create your own "Sistine Chapel" using paint, markers, or crayons on the butcher paper. For added fun, lie on a scooter or skateboard while painting.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

* The process Michelangelo used to create the Sistine Chapel was extremely difficult. Do you think that makes his art more important, because it was so difficult to make? Is there another reason you think his art has remained so well-known and well-regarded 500 years later?

AFTERNOON SESSION:
WASSILY KANDINSKY

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries, it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement Michelangelo worked in (Italy, end of the 15th century, Renaissance) and compare it with Kandinsky (Russia, end of the 19th century, Abstract)

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Wassily Kandinsky to present to your child. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life. The web series Art with Mati and Dada has wonderful short videos about famous artists. [Here](#) is Kandinsky's.

BOOKS (click on link for YouTube recordings of the book being read aloud)
[The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art by Barb Rosenstock](#)
[The Girl Who Heard Colors by Marie Harris](#)

ART IDEA

Kandinsky Circle Art in Two Parts

Kandinsky believed geometric shapes conveyed certain feelings. He was particularly intrigued by the circle. Take a look at his well-known painting [Circles in a Circle](#).

Part 1 - Making the Salt Dough

First, go on a circle hunt around your house collecting anything that can be used to press a circle shape into your dough - jar lids, bottle caps, cups, toilet paper rolls, etc. Next, you will create a canvas for your circle art. Preheat oven to 225F./120C. Combine 2 cups flour, 1 cup water, and 1 cup salt into a dough and knead thoroughly. Roll out into a thin layer with a well-floured rolling pin. Use a large bowl to cut out a big circle from your dough and carefully place the circle on a baking sheet that is lined with parchment paper. Using your circle shapes, gently press the circles into the dough. Be careful not to press down too hard, you do not want the dough to separate. Poke a small hole at the top of the circle so that you can hang your work. Bake your circle art in the oven for 2-3 hours, turning over halfway through, until the dough is fully hardened. Check periodically that the dough is not browning.



Part 2 - Once the dough has completely cooled, paint it with tempera or acrylic paint. You can play music while you paint as Kandinsky often did. When the painting is dry, tie string or yarn through the small hole for hanging.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

*Kandinsky was intrigued by the feelings geometric shapes expressed, particularly the circle. Are there any shapes that you feel connect with certain emotions?

*Kandinsky believed there is a strong connection between music and art. He famously said he saw colors when he listened to music and he heard music when he painted colors. Is there a song that makes you think of certain colors? Is there a certain picture or colors that makes you think of a song or music?

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DAY TWO: KEITH HARING AND YAYOI KUSAMA

MORNING SESSION:
KEITH HARING

STARTER:

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries, it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement the previous day's artists were from and then to introduce Keith Haring (America, 20th Century, Contemporary Art)

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Keith Haring to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life.

BOOKS - (click on link for a YouTube recording of the book being read aloud)

[The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing by Kay A. Haring](#)

ART IDEAS

Haring-inspired Small Scale Art

Haring's work is among the most well-recognized of the artists we have studied. His work has been printed on t-shirts, calendars, mugs, and notebooks, with the money from these products going to support the causes Haring fought for his whole life. Using examples of his work as your guide, create a small-scale Haring painting and take a photo of it. This photo can be used for your gallery invitation.



Haring-inspired Large Scale Mural

Recreate one of Haring's colorful murals. On a large sheet of butcher paper create Haring-esque figures by tracing family members lying on the paper. Make sure to squish everyone in! Paint or color in the figures using bright colors. You can add the short black lines that Haring used to create a sense of movement in his paintings.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

Haring loved to include children in the art he was creating. He once made a huge panting of the Statue of Liberty with 900 children helping him! Why do you think Haring liked creating art with children?

SESSION 2:
YAYOI KASUMA

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries, it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement Keith Haring worked in (America, 20th Century, Contemporary Art) and then compare it to Yayoi Kusama (Japan, 20th/21st century, Pop Art).

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Yayoi Kusama to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life. [This](#) is a wonderful short movie about her life and her love of polka dots.

BOOKS - (click on link for YouTube recordings of the books being read aloud)

[From Here to Infinity by Sarah Suzuki](#)

Yayoi Kusama Covered Everything in Dots and Wasn't Sorry by Fausto Gilberti

ART IDEA

Kusama-inspired Circle Painting

Start by drawing circles of all sizes and colors with markers, crayons, oil pastels, water colors, etc. Add circle prints using paint and circular objects that can be used for stamping. Let dry. Add another layer of small circle stickers. If you have dots paints, add that as your final layer.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

*Kusama covers all of her works in polka dots. Why do you think she uses dots in all her artwork?

*Do you like her work? How does it compare to, say, Michelangelo? Is one better than the other? Is one harder to make than the other?

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DAY THREE: FRIDA KAHLO AND JACKSON POLLOCK

MORNING SESSION:
FRIDA KAHLO

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement the previous artists worked in before introducing Frida Kahlo (Mexico, 20th century, Magical Realism).

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Frida Kahlo to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life.

BOOKS (click on link for YouTube recordings of the book being read aloud)
[Frida Kahlo \(Little People, Big Dreams\) by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara](#)
[Frida by Jonah Winter](#)

ART IDEA

Kahlo-inspired Self Portrait

Kahlo painted many self-portraits including one of her most well-known, The Frame. For this project you will need a printer, colored pencils, a picture frame and markers that can write on ceramic and glass. To start, print out a black and white portrait of yourself either from sketch mode or just a regular version of a photo. Color your photo using the colored pencils. Next, slide a color copy of Kahlo's The Frame into the 8x10 picture frame. Following Kahlo's painting as your guide, use the markers to color the shapes of the frame, but not the portrait itself - that's where your photo is going to go. Finally trim your portrait to fit inside the frame. Remove the Kahlo painting and replace it with yours.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

- *Kahlo had a lot of sad things happened to her in her life (illness as a child and a very bad accident that left her badly injured) but she also had a lot of joy, both of which she channelled into her art. Do her paintings make you feel happy or sad (or another emotion) when you look at them?
- *Kahlo painted a lot of self-portraits. Why do you think artists choose to paint themselves? When you were creating your self-portrait, what did you think about?

AFTERNOON SESSION:
JACKSON POLLOCK

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries it is a good idea to review where, when, and which movement Frida Kahlo worked in (Mexico, 20th Century, Magical Realism) and compare it to Jackson Pollock (America, 20th Century, Abstract Expressionism)

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Jackson Pollock to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life. The web series "Art with Mati and Dada" has wonderful short videos about famous artists. [Here](#) is Pollock's.

BOOKS (click on link for YouTube recordings of the book being read aloud)
[Action Jackson by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan](#)
Jackson Pollock Splashed Paint And Wasn't Sorry by Fausto Gilberti

ART IDEAS

Small Scale Pollock-inspired Art

Pour 3-4 colors of tempera paint into separate bowls. Dip long pieces of yarn into the bowls and then drag or smack the yarn over the paper to create marks.

Large Scale Pollock-inspired Art

Create a Pollock masterpiece using his famous drip technique. You'll need a large piece of butcher paper or sheet. You can also use recycled architecture paper. Pour tempera paint into small cups and water the paint down a little bit so it drips easily. Gather up paint brushes, spoons, pipettes, etc. and then go nuts! Pour, drip, splatter and smack the paint. For added fun, stand on a raised surface (a chair or a table, for instance) and drop your paint from above onto the canvas.



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU WORK

1. What do you think of Pollock's work? His paintings have sold for hundreds of millions of dollars - why do you think they are so valuable?
2. At the height of its popularity, Pollock all of a sudden stopped using his drip technique. Why do you think he made the decision to stop?

WEEKLY THEME:

ART GALLERY

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DAY FOUR: HENRI MATISSE AND PABLO PICASSO

MORNING SESSION:
HENRI MATISSE

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries, it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement the previous artists worked in before introducing Henri Matisse (France, late 19th century/early 20th century, Fauvism).

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Henri Matisse to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life. The web series "Art with Mati and Dada" has wonderful short videos about famous artists. [Here](#) is Matisse's.

BOOKS (click on link for YouTube recordings of the book being read aloud)

[Matisse's Garden by Samantha Friedman](#)

[Henri's Scissors by Jeanette Winter](#)

ART IDEAS

Matisse-inspired Collage

Matisse loved using bright, vivid colors. In his later years as an artist, partly because of his failing health, he focused on paper cutouts. Create a collage using colorful paper. For younger children, these can be pre-cut shapes; older children can cut out the shapes themselves. To make your collage even more colorful, pour glue into several small cups and mix with a little bit of paint.



Matisse Inspired Cookies

Bake and frost basic sugar cookies using a circular shape cookie cutter and white buttercream frosting. Decorate the cookies using fruit leather or gummy candy that can be cut into Matisse-inspired shapes. Serve your cookies at the gallery opening.

Questions to Discuss While You Work

*Take a look at some of Matisse's color paintings and collages. How do they make you feel? Why do you think his work is so valuable?

*Matisse was one of the painters of a new style called Fauvism which means wild beasts. Why do you think people compared his work to wild beasts?

AFTERNOON SESSION:
PABLO PICASSO

STARTER

Because we are jumping between time periods and countries, it is a good idea to review where, when, and which art movement Henri Matisse worked in (France, late 19th century/early 20th century, Fauvism) before introducing Pablo Picasso (Spain, late 19th century/early 20th century, Cubism/Surrealism). These two are an interesting pair because they were actually good friends and then eventually became rivals.

LEARN ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gather facts about Pablo Picasso to present to your children. One good place to start is [here](#) for easily digestible information about the artist's life.

BOOKS (click on link for YouTube recordings of the book being read aloud)

[When Picasso Met Matisse by Nina Laden](#)

[Picasso and the Girl with a Ponytail: A Story about Pablo Picasso by Laurence Anholt](#)

ART IDEAS

Blue Period Art

From 1901-1904 Picasso's work was full of shades of green and blue. Known as his Blue Period, he felt very sad during this time and painted a lot of sad pictures. Pick an emotion and decide which color best represents that emotion. Create a painting using shades of that color.

Picasso Portrait Art

Look at photos of Picasso's portraits. What is interesting or unique about them? Have a grown-up help you print out several photos of your face in different sizes. Cut out different facial features from the photos and rearrange them on a piece of construction paper to create a Picasso-inspired self-portrait. You can also add color with paint or crayons.



Questions to Discuss While You Work

*Do you agree with Picasso that colors can express feelings? What feelings do you associate with certain colors?

*Why do you think Picasso chose to create portraits where the faces looked funny? Does a portrait have to look exactly like the person it depicts?

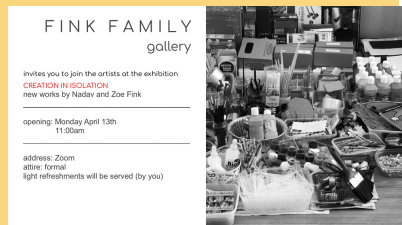
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DAY FIVE: PREPARING FOR THE OPENING

INVITATIONS:

Who do you want to invite to your gallery opening? Will it be virtual using Zoom/Skype or in person ? The first step is to design an invitation. You can take a picture of some of the art you created or use a photograph of yourself creating the art or design something specific for the invitation. Google Slides, Apple Pages, and Canva all have easy to use templates for designing invitations. Send your invitation to your guests about a week before the event.



HANG YOUR GALLERY

Gallery owners think a lot about the way they hang the art in their spaces. Lay out all of the artwork you will be displaying in your gallery and decide how you want to hang them. For each piece, design a museum label similar to the ones seen [here](#).



REFRESHMENTS

At most art opening refreshments are served for the guests. Plan your menu and prepare the foods you want to have. Some ideas are cut up veggies and fruit, cheese and crackers, hors d'oeuvres., cookies and small cakes. If you made Matisse cookies you can serve those. If you are having a virtual opening, make sure you tell your guests to prepare refereshments for themselves as well. You can serve sparkling apple juice as "champagne".

PREPARING THE TOUR

How do you want to present your works of art to the guests? What do you want to say about each piece? Practice talking about all of the works in your gallery before the opening. If you have time, you can prepare a catalogoue documenting your learning process like the one seen [here](#).



Zoe Fink
American/Israeli 2012
Self Portrait 2012
pencil on blue and red patterned pencils on brown
open book by the artist

