

Fragmented Faces: Portraits in Pastel

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TOPICS: Techniques for blending and patterning with pastels; Using stencils to aid in isolating and recombining imagery; Creating abstract imagery

SUBJECT(S): Visual Arts

GRADE(S): 4-7

UNIT DURATION: 3 lessons



Tiko Kerr, *Fish Tank*, paper collage, 5.3 x 4 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

OVERVIEW & CULMINATING TASK:

In this lesson students will explore the paper cut collage works of Canadian artist Tiko Kerr. In his collages, Kerr investigates the ways in which memory, emotion, and personal narrative influence perception. Kerr creates minimal narrative spaces through blending, fragmenting, and abstracting a variety of source materials. He makes use of humour as well as imagery from popular culture.

Students will create an abstract portrait using techniques for drawing with oil pastels, stencilling, and collage.

BIG IDEAS (What students will understand):

- Artists experiment in a variety of ways to discover new possibilities and perspectives. (Arts Education 5)
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us. (Arts Education 5)

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES (What students will do):

- Choose artistic elements, processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, techniques and environments using combinations and selections for specific purposes in art making
- Develop and refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations
- Reflect on works of art and creative processes to understand artists' intentions

CONCEPTS & CONTENT (What students will know):

- Image development strategies
- Elements of visual art; principles of design

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) (What students will keep considering):

- How can I use oil pastels to blend, overlap, and create patterns in the creation of an abstract design?
- What techniques do artists use to isolate and recombine imagery?

FIRST PEOPLES' PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING:

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential and relational.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGIES:

- digital Images of collages by Tiko Kerr (see end of document)
- digital projector / computer
- 11.5"x11.5" pre-cut thick white paper (i.e. cardstock or opaque vellum) (1 per student)
- class set of face shape stencils (see end of document for printable stencil templates)
- oil pastels
- scotch tape
- 4.25"x2.75" pre-cut white printer or construction paper (2 per student)
- 4.25"x5.5" pre-cut white printer or construction paper (1 per student)
- white glue
- scissors
- glue spreaders and glue pots
- pencils



Tiko Kerr, *Mid Century Modern (after Warhol)*, paper cut collage, 9 x 9 inches framed. Image courtesy of the artist.

VOCABULARY:

collage, abstraction, stencil, portrait, silhouette, recombine, fragment, colour palette, opaque, transparent, horizon line, blend

RESOURCES & REFERENCES:

- <https://www.saatchiart.com/tikokerr>
- <http://www.tikokerr.com/>
- <http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/glossary/>
- <https://www.artforkidshub.com/how-to-blend-with-oil-pastels/>
- <https://www.kitchentableclassroom.com/oil-pastel-techniques-for-kids/>

ADAPTATIONS & MODIFICATIONS:

Students with difficulties using scissors may photograph their pastel swatches and carry out the assignment using a computer and design software such as Adobe Photoshop or MS Paint.

DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES (Teacher Action/Student Action):

LESSON #1 (intro to Tiko Kerr and pastel swatch creation):

- Introduce students to the artwork of Tiko Kerr. View examples of Kerr's collages with face silhouettes and pose questions for discussion: How has Kerr made use of images from other artists in these collages?



Tiko Kerr, *An Elegant Departure*, paper cut collage, 12 x 12 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

Describe the colours that Kerr has included in his collages. Why might an artist create a portrait that is abstract, rather than realistic?

- View examples of Kerr's abstract collages and pose questions for discussion: Describe the colours that Kerr has used in his collages. Describe Kerr's use of blending and patterning in his collages.
- Demonstrate to students techniques for blending and layering oil pastels (see resources and

references section for ideas). Discuss and demonstrate the difference between opaque and transparent use of pastels.

- Give each student two 4.25"x2.75" sheets of white printer or construction paper. Have students fill each sheet using strategies for blending and patterning. Instruct the students to cover the papers with opaque, rather than transparent colour.
- Have the students keep one of their swatches and discard one of their swatches. Students will then randomly select a second swatch from their peers' discarded swatches.

LESSON #2 (fragmenting and recombining pastel swatches):

- Have students cut each of their 2 pastel swatches into 3 simple shapes (avoid small detailed cuts).
- Have each student randomly choose 1 pre-made face stencil (see end of document for printable stencil templates).
- Have students recombine the cut pieces of their pastel swatches on a 4.25"x5.5" piece of white printer or construction paper so that it fills the face stencil that they've chosen. Have the students glue down the pieces then trace the face shape onto the resulting collage. Have the students cut out the traced face shape.

LESSON #3 (collage completion):

- Have students choose 2 pastel colours and create a horizon line to divide an 11.5"x11.5" piece of pre-cut thick white paper. Have the students use the side of their pastels to cover the 2 sections of their paper with transparent colour – using 1 colour per section.
- Have the students glue down their cut out face shape in the centre of the 11.5"x11.5" piece of thick white paper. They can then extend the face shapes by adding an outline of a neck and shoulders, as well as hair and/or a hat. Students can then embellish these elements using layers of opaque pastel colour. Remind students to make use of strategies for blending, patterning, and layering that they practiced in Lesson #1.
- Have students choose one light colour to apply over top of the transparent layers in their backgrounds. Have student use the side of their pastels to create an opaque layer of colour over top of the initial transparent layers.
- Students may complete their compositions by using a black pastel or other dark colour to add outlines to define the horizon line, shoulders, hair, hats, etc.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

After creating their pastel swatches in Lesson #1, have students lay them out on their desks and walk around the classroom to observe their peer's work. Facilitate a class discussion using the following prompts: Identify a pastel swatch in which your classmate made use of blending, patterning, or layering in a way that you find particularly effective. Tell us about why you find their technique to be successful.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

After students complete their collages in Lesson #3, have them reflect in writing on the following questions: Identify a section of your collage in which you made effective use of layering, blending, or patterning with pastels. Tell us about why this technique is successful within your collage. Identify 1 part of your composition that could use more work. How might it be improved or altered?



Tiko Kerr, *Three Musicians*, paper collage, 10.3 x 9 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

EXTENSIONS & POSSIBLE CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:

Have students brainstorm titles for their finished collages. Pose the following questions to prompt students to brainstorm words to incorporate into their titles: What colours stand out the most within your composition? What kind of character might this portrait depict? What is their personality like?



Teacher Sample, AFK

AFK RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:

Looking for more art lesson ideas? Looking for ways to connect art to other areas of the curriculum? Visit the AFK Resources page to find lesson plans for all grade levels!

<http://tiny.cc/AFKResources>



Tiko Kerr, *Mid Century Modern (after Warhol)*, paper cut collage, 9 x 9 inches framed. Image courtesy of the artist.



Tiko Kerr, *Three Musicians*, paper collage,
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