

PICASSO FACE IN THE MIRROR

Purpose: To learn about the art style of Pablo Picasso & do a self-portrait in that style -- a new style to most of the students that forces them to think outside of the box.

Docent Provides:

- Prints of Face in the Mirror and other Picasso portraits (in yellow portfolio bag)
- Oil Pastels (black and white in separate baggies)
- 12 x 18 black construction paper
- Paper towels

Set Up: Give each student a black paper, a white oil pastel, and a paper towel

Introduction: (Discussion of Picasso's art and style) (~10 minutes)

- Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), one of the most famous artists of this century, was always trying new and different ways to paint people and things. Picasso was classically trained, but his style changed many times during his long life. As he matured, he began to paint in a very new style, which became known as Cubism. He is known best for these bold images that do NOT look like photographs.
- Picasso had a great imagination and was never afraid to try new ideas. He loved bright colors and enjoyed mixing things up a bit. In his Cubist works, you can tell what his subjects are, but they are distorted versions rather than life-like replicas. Some of his art was designed to make a political statement. Think about how the colors, shapes, expressions, and backgrounds can make a statement without using words -- how they convey sorrow, anger, happiness, confusion, or peace.
- Discuss the following points as you refer to the Picasso prints: Sometimes it looked as if the people he painted had their faces and body parts in the wrong places. Are you looking at a front view or a side view? Does the face still have eyes, mouth, and nose? The nose is where the cheek is supposed to be. One eye is looking in the opposite direction of the other eye. One side of the face is a different color than the other. What emotions does each painting seem to portray?
- We are going to be creating our own Picasso portraits, using ourselves as models. This is called a self-portrait. We will use oil pastels on black paper because the contrast of rich oil pastels on the black background will really make the colors pop off the paper. As you do your self-portrait, you can think about two emotions that you sometimes feel, and try to capture them using colors, shapes, and expressions, just like Picasso did!

Lesson: (Remind students that oil pastels are VERY hard to clean off clothing so they need to be extra careful to only wipe their hands on the paper towel and should not remove more of the paper wrapper than is necessary. Also, oil pastels can be used up completely -- even tiny bits should be used by pressing them under you fingertip)

Step 1 -- Outline:

- Using the white oil pastel only, draw a LARGE oval shape for your head. Try to fill up as much of your paper as you can with the oval and do not press too hard on your pastel -- do a very light sketch.
- Draw either a right or left profile view (side view) down the middle of the face.
- Draw the front view of an eye on the front view side and draw a side view of an eye on the profile side, or go wild and change the shape and placement of each eye. Maybe put one near the forehead and the other closer to the nose.
- Draw the mouth. Change its normal shape and size. You can make one side smiling and the other side frowning, or one open and one closed, or one side toothy and the other kissing -- or something else!
- Make a crazy hairstyle. Try different hairstyles on each side. Draw each hair (rather than scribbling) so that colors can be added and each hair can be thoughtfully shaped.



NOW pass out colored oil pastels

Step 2 -- Adding color:

- Color in all the parts of the face and hair. Color each side of the face and hair a different color. Experiment, Picasso did!
- Outline every line with a black oil pastel. This will make the features stand out.

(Kids who finish early can help clean up or try doing another portrait on white paper)

Clean up: Oil pastels can't be washed off, so each student should use their paper towel to wipe their fingers and desk as well as they can. Quick finishers can make sure no little pieces of oil pastel or wrappers are on the ground.