

Second-Line Parasol

Join the parade with a personally-designed version of this New Orleans tradition!

(art + social studies; art + music)

The "second line" refers to the people that fall in with a parade, dancing and enjoying the music of the brass band, waving flags, fans, banners or handkerchiefs, and twirling parasols.

The tradition began in New Orleans following the Civil War. Fraternal societies and neighborhood organizations were formed to provide loans, insurance benefits and funeral services to the members of their organization and were largely made up of freed slaves and persons of African descent. At a Jazz Funeral, the procession would begin with the "first line" - the hearse, the family, and a band playing solemn music. The "second line" would follow the parade of mourners to the cemetery singing hymns and dirges with the band and dancing with slow, exaggerated steps. Once the deceased was interred, the music and dancing would become much livelier and the procession returning from the cemetery would become a moving celebration.

Today, "second lining" is more popular than ever, and has become a style of music and dancing that fills the streets of the French Quarter regularly, is part of wedding celebrations, and has spread from its New Orleans roots to cities nationwide.

Usually fringed, feathered and as glitzy as possible, a Second Line Parasol can be as much fun to make as it is to twirl, wave and dance with!

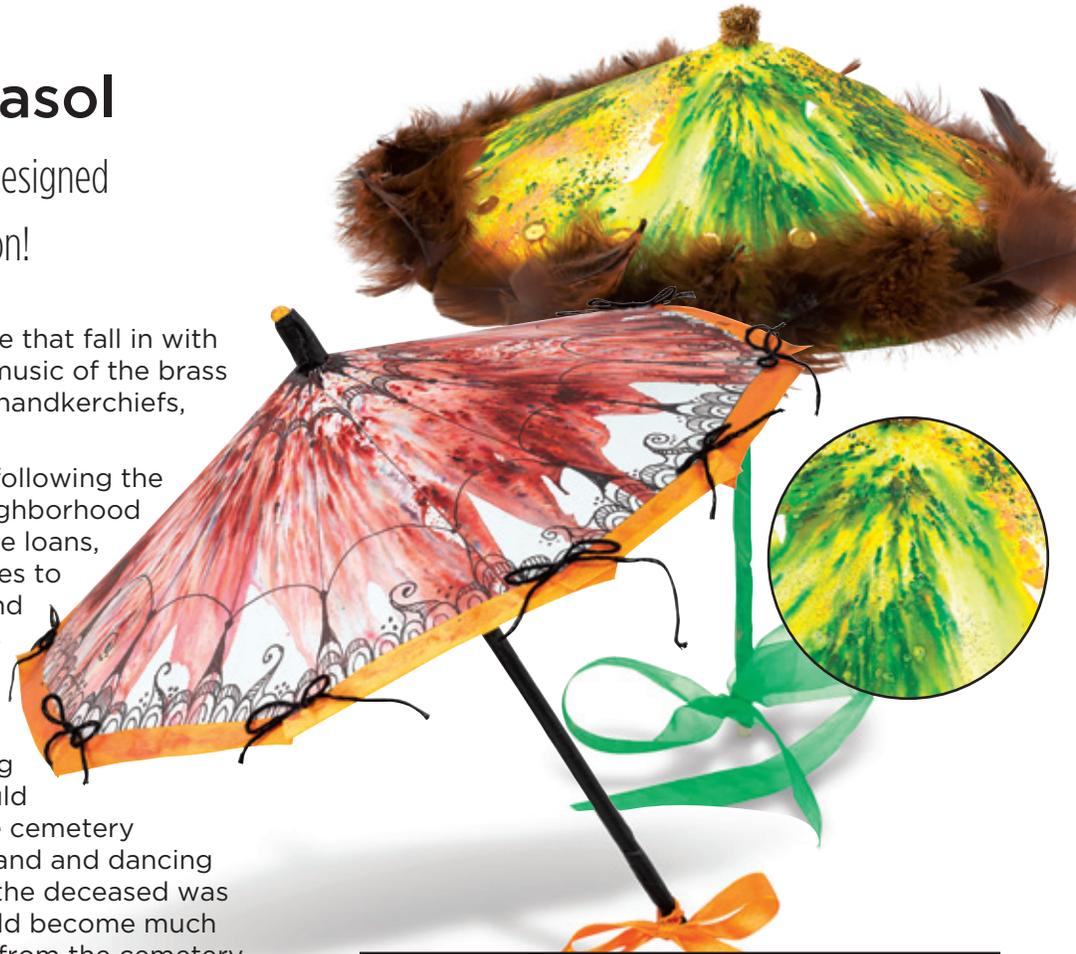
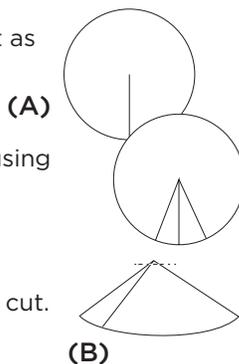
GRADES 3-8 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Punch holes in the top of Brusho containers using a push pin to create a shaker jar.

Process

1. Use a compass to draw a circle as large as possible on a piece of watercolor paper, then cut. Next, cut a line from the edge of the circle to the center, see (A).
2. Cut lines equal-distant on either side of that line, then overlap edges and glue together to make a short cone-shaped shade for the parasol. Hold in place with tape or clip while drying. Snip just the tip off, or a circle about 1/4" diameter, see (B).



Materials (required)

- [Blick Watercolor Paper](#), 15 x 22, 140 lb (10008-1028); share one sheet between 2 students
- [Brusho Crystal Colours](#), 15 grams, assorted colors, (01762-); share at least 3 across class
- [Aleene's Quick Dry Tacky Glue](#), 4 oz (23884-1104); share 3 across class
- [Wooden Dowel Rod](#), 1/4" dia, 12" length, pkg of 12 (60448-1412); need one per student
- [ShurTech Ducklings Mini Duck Tape Rolls](#), assorted colors, 3/4" x 15 ft (56952-); share 3 rolls among class
- [Staedtler Mars Comfort 551 Precision Compass](#) (55690-1003); need one per student
- [Foam Poly Brush](#), 1" (06027-1001); need one per student

Optional Materials

- [Plumage Feathers](#), assorted colors (62147-)
- [Creativity Street Sequin Mix](#), 4 oz (60718-1004)
- [Rhinestones](#), pkg of 375 (61762-1001)
- [Elmer's Glitter Glue](#), 6 oz, assorted colors (65304-)
- [Ribbon Assortment](#), 40 yds (62100-1040)



Step 1: Construct the parasol shade with watercolor paper.



Step 2: Apply water to one section of the shade and sprinkle Brusho Crystals onto the wet paper.

Process, continued

- Wet a section of the shade with clear water and sprinkle Brusho into the water. Continue wetting just a section of the paper and adding color until the surface is painted. Allow to dry.

NOTE: Brusho is most effective with just a few gentle sprinkles. Heavy application and layering colors can muddy the effect quickly. Avoid spilling the Brusho powder. Keep a piece of wide tape over the holes of the jar when not in use.

- While paint dries, make a pencil mark about 2" from one end of the dowel and apply a thickly layered ring of tape just below the mark.
- Place the shade onto the dowel to make sure there is enough tape to hold it, then wrap the top of the dowel with more tape to secure.
- The dowel may be wrapped with more decorative tape or ribbon, or painted if desired.
- Decorate the parasol shade using feathers, tissue paper fringe, ribbons, glitter glue, sequins or rhinestones. As an option, draw designs using markers or add more paint.

The parasol may be placed in a jar to hold it while decorating.



Step 3: Design the handle of the parasol with decorative tape.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 4: Attach the handle with more tape, then finish the parasol by decorating with feathers, ribbons, sequins, etc.