

Picasso-Inspired Soft Sculpture

Cubism was a 20th century avant-garde art movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that revolutionized European painting and sculpture and inspired related movements in music, literature and architecture. Picasso demonstrated uncanny artistic talent in his early years, painting in a realistic manner throughout his childhood and adolescence; during the first decade of the 20th century his style changed often as he experimented with different ideas and theories. Picasso is known for his blue and rose periods, his African-influenced period, and for various types of cubism. Picasso was most well-known for his paintings, but he was also a sculptor.

In this project, we have a chance to produce reinterpretations of the works of Picasso! The simplified forms of cubism lend themselves beautifully to soft sculpture reproductions. By looking through the vast array of figurative paintings done by Picasso during his cubist phase, we find many possibilities for soft sculpture adaptations. Fine art, sculpture and textiles combine to make an eye-catching piece.

Grade Levels 5-12

Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.



Materials

Blick® Drawing Paper, 30-sheet pad, 9" x 12" (10314-2013); need two sheets per student

Sharpie® Chisel-Tip Marker, Black (21383-2020); one per student

Unbleached Muslin, 38" wide (63104-1338); share three yards across class

Scratch-Art® Scratch-Foam® Soft Surface Printing Board, 9" x 12" sheets, package of 48 (13519-0048); need two sheets per student

Student Clay Modeling Tools, 7-piece set (30361-1009); share four sets across class

Snippy® Scissors, sharp, package of 12 (57040-2009); need one pair per student

Blick® Broadline Waterbased Markers, 8-color set (21224-0089); share one set between two students

Blick® Studio Acrylics, 6-color set (01637-0069); share one across class

Blick® Scholastic Golden Taklon Brushes, assorted sizes (05858-); at least one per student

Creativity Street® Embroidery Floss, 24-skein set (63100-1009); share one across class

Embroidery needles

Straight pins

Polyester Flufferfill, 16-oz (66902-1006); share one bag between two students

Dried beans or rice; share one bag between two students

Optional Materials

Delta® Sobo Craft and Fabric Glue, 8-oz (23820-1008)

Yasutomo® Bamboo Baren, Large (40120-1001)

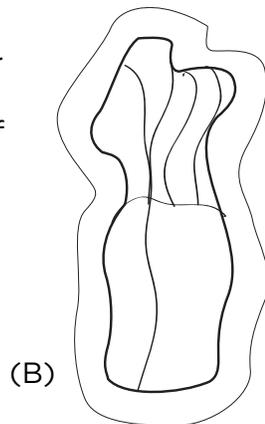
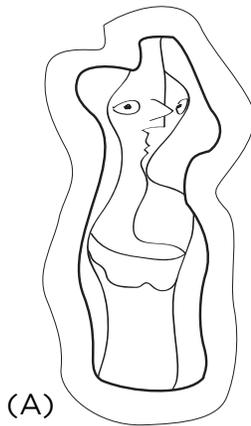
Potpourri Glass Beads, Glass Bead Assortment (61518-)

Preparation

1. Introduce students to the art and ideas of Pablo Picasso. Recommended resources:
“Artists of the 20th Century: Picasso” DVD (70096-1011)
“Dropping in on Picasso” DVD (70050-1012) and book (70050-1005), grade levels 5-8
“Taschen Basic Art Styles Series Famous Artists: Picasso” book (70033-1031)
Picasso.com is the Online Picasso Project.
2. Cut muslin into 9" x 12" pieces; need two pieces per student.

Process

1. Make a preliminary drawing of the soft sculpture in marker on a 9" x 12" piece of paper. Create the design with a 1" border around the artwork to be used as a seam, see (A). Tape it to a window or light box. Tape one piece of the muslin over the drawing and trace over the image lightly with a pencil.
2. Next, tape the Scratch-Art® Scratch-Foam® over the paper drawing and trace lightly with a pencil. Cut out the outline of the sculpture.
3. Turn the drawing over to reverse and trace the outline onto another piece of paper. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the reverse side of the sculpture, see (B).
4. The color will be applied to the muslin as a monotype: first by painting the Scratch-Foam®, then by transferring it to the muslin.



carefully over the muslin and apply gentle, even pressure with fingers or a baren. Lift the foam and repeat this step with the remaining pieces of foam until the front is completely printed.

5. Repeat step 4 to print the reverse side.
6. When the prints are dry, embellish both sides with stitching or beads.
7. Cut the sculpture shape from the muslin, keeping the 1" border of unprinted fabric around all sides intact. Place the prints face-to-face and sew a running stitch around the outer edge of the fabric on top and sides, leaving the bottom open. For a no-sew version, simply brush fabric glue along the top and sides and secure together until dry.
8. Turn the sculpture right-side-out and stuff the piece mostly full, leaving 1" at the bottom to add beans or rice. Push the stuffing into tight areas and curves using the eraser end of a pencil.
9. To finish the sculpture and keep it standing upright, make a “beanbag” weight for the bottom. Take a square scrap of muslin about twice the size of the base of the sculpture and pour beans or rice into the center. Gather it at the top and tie it with embroidery floss. Insert the beanbag into the bottom of the sculpture, tied-side-up. Sew or glue into place.

Options

1. Other color choices may include **Blick® Liquid Watercolor**, assorted colors (00369-) or **Sargent Art® Metallic Acrylic**, assorted colors (00730-) in addition to the **Blick® Studio Acrylics** (01637-).
2. More decorative stitching and beading can be added to the stuffed piece, if desired.



National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

9-12 Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #4 Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8 Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures.

9-12 Students analyze relationships of works of art to one another in terms of history, aesthetics and culture, justifying conclusions made in the analysis and using such conclusions to inform their own art making.