

Masterpiece: *People and Dog in Sun*, 1949 by Joan Miro

Pronounced: Hwan Mee-RO

Keywords: Color, Line, Contrast, Imagination

Grade: 2nd Grade

Month: December

Activity: Abstract Artwork



Meet the Artist:

- He was born in Spain in 1893.
- His father was a goldsmith who wanted his son to be a bookkeeper.
- Joan hated having a job in a business office so his father finally sent him to art school in Barcelona.
- He finished art school in 1919. Afterwards, he met famous artists like Pablo Picasso. His works started out being surrealistic, but became more abstract over time.
- Abstract art focuses on color, line, shape, imagination, and form.
- Miro literally means "he looked".
- He lived a rather normal and long life. He died at the old age of 90 in 1983.

Definitions:

Surrealism- Artwork that is very dreamlike in appearance. These paintings are often filled with recognizable objects done in strange and mystery fashion.

Abstract- This kind of artwork has objects that are mostly unrecognizable. Abstract paintings rely on color and shapes.

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Possible Questions:

- What colors do you see? Are they mainly primary colors (red, yellow, blue) or secondary colors (purple, orange, green).
- Where is the contrast? (the background has light colors, not bold like the foreground).
- Describe what you see. Turn the painting upside down and sideways. See which way the kids like it best.
- Do you see people? Do they look like kids or adults?
- Where is the dog? Where is the sun?
- One dot is half red and half black, who can find it?
- Did Miro have a good imagination?
- What would you title this painting?

Materials Needed: white construction paper, fat markers in many colors, fine black markers, pencils, crayons that are stripped, objects to be used for visuals (You may bring in things like coffee mugs, cheap vases, and milk jugs, but usually the kids' desks have plenty of objects they can use. They may need a little help in selecting an object. Crayon boxes, water bottles, scissors, glue bottles, etc.) In the box of supplies will be an example of a finished project. You may show them, but don't leave it out, they will try to copy it.

Activity: Abstract Painting

Process:

1. Using the object, have them sketch it from different angles with a pencil. Have these different angles overlap. Try to keep them from tracing, but if they are frustrated with it, it is ok. Have them use most of the space on the paper. There should be 3-4 different angles drawn and overlapping.
2. Using the black marker, have them trace their pencil lines.
3. With the markers, have them color in the spaces in between the lines. Each touching space should be a different color.
4. If time permits, they can use the side of a stripped crayon to color in the background a light color for contrast, like Miro's painting.
5. Have them title it on the back and of course, sign it on the front.

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Coffee Cup Example.

