
Art Masterpiece: David Bates "Feeding The Dogs"
Oil on Canvas 90" x 67", Phoenix Art Museum

Keywords: line, shape, color, texture

Grade: 4th - 6th grade

Activity: Project #1: Package Design - 3D
Project #2: "Feeding A Pet..." Drawing



Meet The Artist:

- David Bates was born in Dallas, Texas in 1952. He studied art in college and after he graduated he taught school part-time. When he was 24 years old, he had his first one-man gallery exhibition and then later that year, he was chosen to participate in a study program at the Whitney Museum of Art- a very famous museum in New York City.
 - While he was in New York, he was exposed to many different works of art. He had a very unique style (different from other artists) of figure painting and sculpture that was not very well liked by the New York art world, so he started to experiment with other styles and media (ways of painting and kinds of paint).
 - He went back home to Dallas to go back to college for his graduate degree. He became interested in Folk Art where the subjects are taken from everyday life and surroundings. Most of his artwork is based on everyday life.
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Discussion:

What do you see in the painting? Do the dogs and the man look real? Why or why not? What is happening in the painting?

What colors do you see? How would you describe them? Which ones are primary? Which one is secondary? (Discuss how you get secondary from primary colors)

Where do you see lines? (Fence, truck, boat, mans' jacket, dog's fur). Explain that all art begins with lines - to outline, to make shapes.

What kinds of shapes do you see? (Circles, rectangles, squares, ovals, etc.) Do some of the shapes repeat? Where? Repeated shapes make patterns. What kinds of patterns do you see? What details are repeated? (The paw prints on the man's pants, the checkered pattern in his shirt & hat, the trim on his coat, the grill on the truck, the fence, the dog food, the plants.

Can you see the texture in this painting? If you could touch the dogs how would they feel? Talk about the difference in the fur of some of the dogs. Discuss the texture of the man's clothes, the dog food, the truck, the water, etc.

What's the most important part of this painting? (the man) Why? (He is feeding his dogs.) Notice how the tails of the dogs form a circle around the man - that makes him the focal point of the painting.

Today's your chance to design an amazing package for dogs (or cats etc) that will grab everyone's attention as they walk down the aisle of their grocery store.

1. Pass out a piece of white drawing paper for students to use to sketch possible package design ideas. Have them draw the rectangle shape of bag and then sketch a design idea. Do at least 2-3 different designs. This is part of the creative process.
2. Students should choose their favorite design layout
3. Next, they are to critique their chosen design and make sure they have represented each of the **ELEMENTS of Art** that were discussed in the art print of David Bates. **Color, Line, Shape, Texture, Pattern.** They may add elements if desired.
4. Time to build their "3-D package-sample". Out of construction paper they can create their design and glue onto a lunch size paper bag. Anything goes. Stress 3-dimensional.
5. TEXT is also an important element on a good package design. Encourage them to incorporate a CREATIVE brand or name for their product. Students can also add eye catching "buzz" words or slogan. Use black marker and add this element to the bag's design.
6. Their design is now ready to present to their client!
7. Once completed you may choose to fill each bag with a handful of sand (or whatever is available) to weight the bag down for display.

If time permits: the students can also work on the back side and add components such as Ingredients, Serving Instructions, Pricing, bar codes, etc.

Make an animal out of clay.