

Art Masterpiece: Louise Nevelson "Royal Tide V"

Keywords: sculpture, assemblage, unity, monochromatic

Grade: 6th grade

Month: December

Activity: Art in a Box

*Note: This is a great activity to display as a grade level project. It will take preparation from the art guide but it's very impressive. The more classes involved the higher it is and the more it looks like a Nevelson sculpture. It's a great display for Art Walks and Fundraisers.

BIO

- Born in Russia in 1899. Died in 1988. Her family moved to Maine when she was 6 to escape persecution of the Jews.
- During the move she went into a Candy Store and saw shelves lined with canisters full of different kinds of candy. This later gave her inspiration for her sculptures.
- She knew when she was very young that she would be an artist – she decided to be a sculptor when she was 7. She didn't get very good grades in school and felt like she didn't fit in.
- As a child she collected shells and stones and put them in little boxes.
- Her father owned a lumberyard and she like to play with pieces of scrap wood. How do you think the exposure to wood affected her career? What if he owned a textile factory?
- Nevelson didn't become very well known until she was 60 years old – it took 30 years of hard work before she started to sell any of her work.
- She was the first sculptor to create **Art in a Box**. Her artwork is made up of "found" objects that she gathered along the side of the road and city streets. She used crates and boxes and filled them with old chair legs, broom handles, cabinet doors, even toilet seats. She also got stuff from junk shops.
- Louise Nevelson liked to wear unusual clothes – she was described as a cross between Catherine The Great and a bag lady.



DISCUSSION

- Does this look like a work of art? Why / why not? This is called a **SCULPTURE** – a three-dimensional work of art.
- Ask the students to describe this sculpture - Boxes, various pieces of wood, chair legs, etc. This sculpture is called an **ASSEMBLAGE** – art made from various odds and ends. Have you ever seen anything like this before?
- What kinds of shapes do you see? Are some of the shapes and pieces repeated? Explain **UNITY**. (The quality of having all the parts of the artwork look like they belong together.)
- What colors do you see? This piece is **monochromatic** (one color.)
- Have you ever made anything like this? If you were to make a sculptor like this, what would you make it out of?

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KEY WORDS

- **Sculpture** – a three-dimensional work of art.
- **Assemblage** – art made from various odd and ends (Art in a Box)
- **Monochromatic** – having only one color.
- **Unity** – a combination of elements in a work of art to make it appear as one – each part contributes to the whole piece.

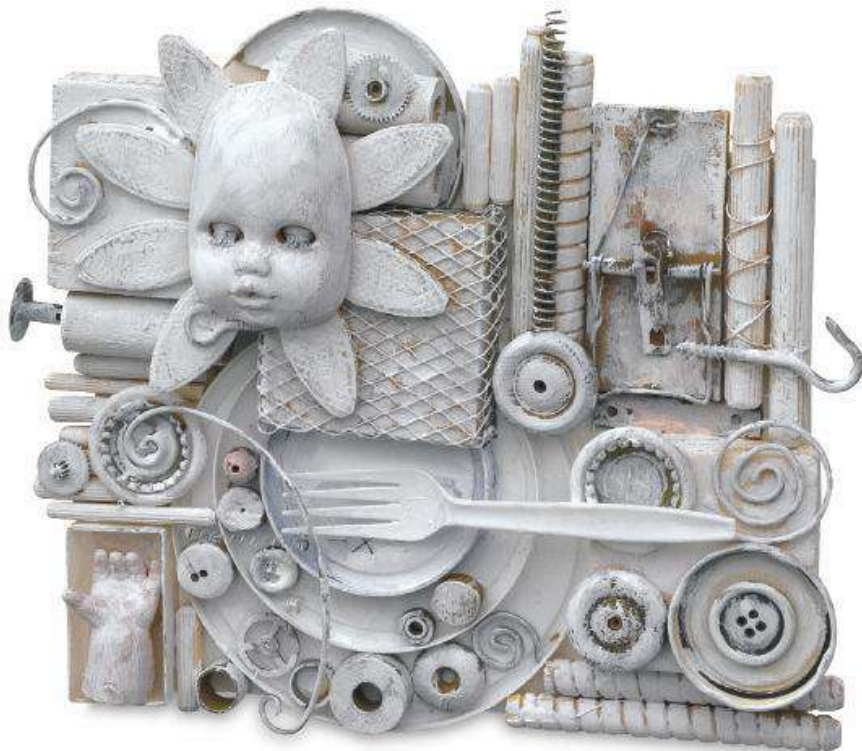
ACTIVITY: Creating an Assemblage or “Art on a Panel”

Materials: Glue, craft sticks (11 per person), black, white, silver, gray, or gold spray paint, found/discarded objects (plastic utensils, wood scraps, pasta, small toys, beads etc.)

You can send home a flyer in advance looking for donations of these items.

Directions:

1. Tell students to make a list of objects they can identify in Nevelson’s Royal Tide V. Discuss what other objects may have been appropriate to use in that particular sculpture.
2. Give each student 11 craft sticks and bottle of glue. Have them make a panel (see example).
3. Have students select some items to put onto their panel. Have them decide on the arrangement prior to gluing to panel. Once they like their display, have them glue it down.
4. Have students decide on the color they would like the panels painted. White, silver, gray, gold, black.
5. When the panels are dry, collect them. Take them home and spray paint.
6. Glue hanger on back of each for display prior to art walk. These will be displayed on a board together as an ‘assemblage’.



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Dear Student -

On _____ we will be discussing the artist Louise Nevelson. She created sculptures using found and discarded objects. After the discussion you will be creating your own sculpture. We will be supplying everything you need to complete your sculpture, however, if you wish to bring in some items to make it uniquely yours, please feel free to do so. You will be creating your masterpiece on a panel that measures 6 ½" x 6 ½". Keep this in mind when selecting items to bring in.

Example:

