
Art Masterpiece: David Bates "Feeding the Dogs"

Oil on Canvas 90" x 67", Phoenix Art Museum

Keywords: Basic Elements of art. Color, Line, Shape, Texture and Pattern, Focal point, Folk Art

Grade: Kinder – 1st

Activity: "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.
 - David's style of art is known as FOLK Art.
 - **FOLK Art** is based on subjects taken from everyday life and surroundings. Most of his artwork is based on everyday life.
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Definitions:

Pattern: the repetition of shapes, lines or colors in a design.

Texture: an element of art. The way an object looks as though it feels rough or smooth.

Focal Point: the most important part or area in a work of art. All parts should center around, provide background for, or draw attention to the focal point.

Artwork Discussion:

What is **FOLK art**? (Art that shows an every-day happening.)

What is happening in this picture? (A man feeding his dogs.)

What's the **focal point** of this painting? (the man) Why? (He is feeding his dogs)

How did the artist get your eyes to move to the man in the painting? (He is larger than other subjects. He is in the center of the painting. His grin.)

Notice how the tails of the dogs form a circle around the man – that draws our eye to him and we know he is important and not to be missed.

Experiencing art Exercise:

Have the students take a minute to quietly study the painting. Ask them to now close their eyes and when they open their eyes they are to imagine that they have magically stepped into the painting.

Have the students describe what they are experiencing by using all of their senses.

Have them think about what they see as they turn around and look about.

What can they hear? (Birds, fish jumping, car running, dogs barking?etc)

What can they smell? (Dogfood, fish from the pond etc.)

Using their imagination ask them to reach out and touch different things around them. Ask them to describe to you how it feels. By what they describe can you guess where they are hiding in the image?

In art how things appear to feel is known as **TEXTURE**.

Look for other examples of **TEXTURE**. Point out the difference of the Dogs hair, man's jacket, bumper of the car, surface of the water vs grass etc.

Ask students how they would paint/draw an object to make it appear rough. Smooth.

Next,

Explore Line, Shape, Pattern in the artwork.

Look for different **LINES**. (fence, truck, boat, mans' jacket, dog's fur). Explain that all art begins with drawing a single line.

When lines come together they create **SHAPE**. What kinds of **shapes** do you see? (circles, rectangles, squares, ovals, etc.)

Objects are created by putting different shapes and lines together.

Repeated shapes make **PATTERN**. How many patterns do you see? (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. Etc)

Lastly, talk about how the artist used **COLOR**.

Does the artist look like he liked to use color? Look how he painted the dogs to each have their own look. He had fun thinking of different breeds of dogs.

Notice how David chose to paint ALL of the dog bowls the same color. What color? **RED**.

Artists will use the color red to get our eye to notice something or to get our eyes to move in a piece of art. Here David used the red bowls to get our eyes to move in a circle. Helping us imagine the dogs running in circles around the man.

RED is known as a power color. It demands to be seen.

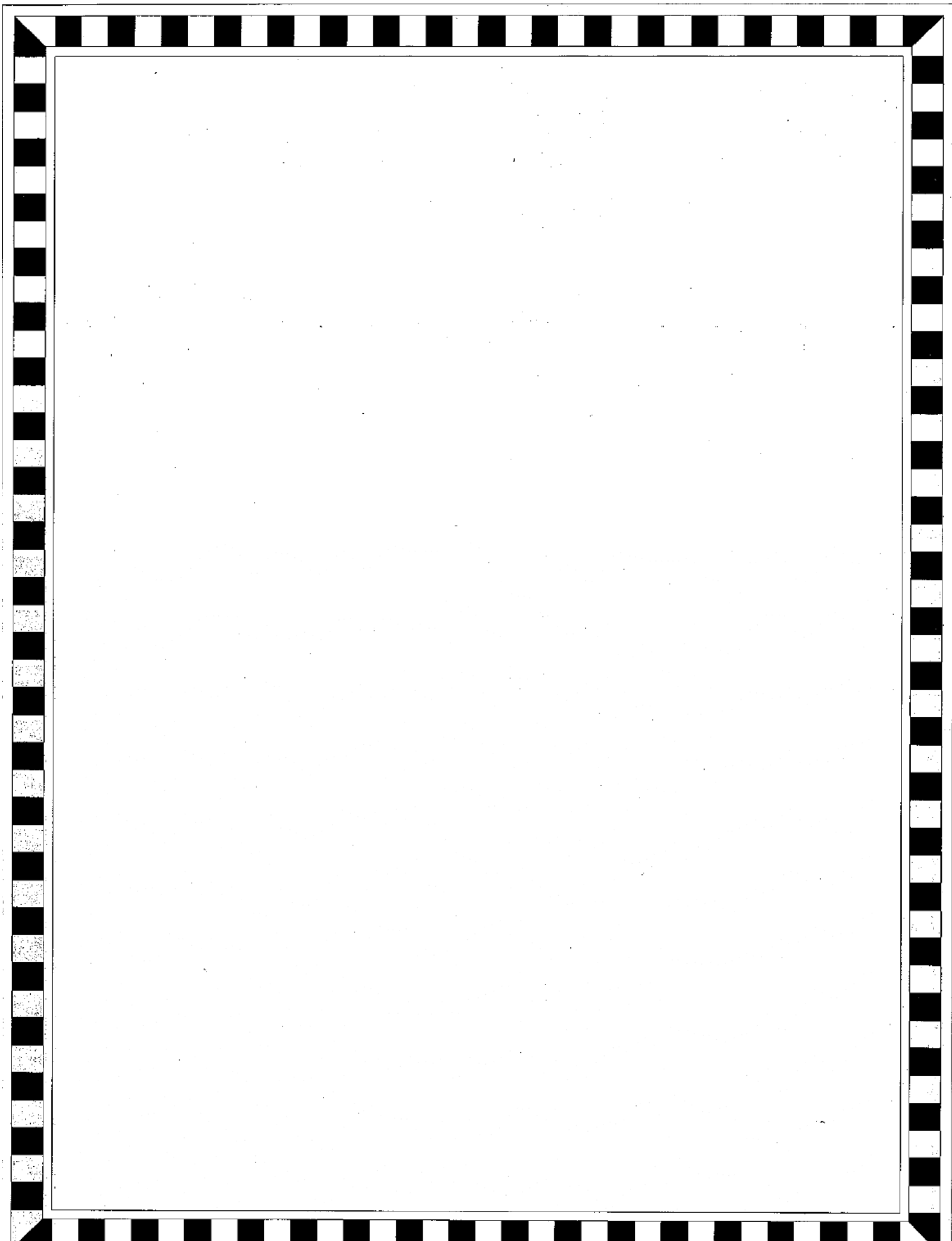
Activity: “Feeding a Pet” Drawing

Materials: copies of white cardstock printed with a frame border design 1/student, colored pencils and regular pencils, erasers, individual pencil sharpeners

Note to Coordinator: using white cardstock (available at CUSD warehouse) is ideal. Colored pencils transfer smoothly on this type of paper.

Art guides, please read through all of the steps in this project beforehand so you can give a full set of directions to the students before they begin drawing. Repeat directions as the students work.

1. Ask students to imagine themselves feeding their pet. If they don't have a pet, they can choose any animal they would like as a pet. List examples on the board – dog, cat, fish, bird, elephant, dolphin, dragon, etc.
2. In pencil students will draw a simple scene of them feeding their pet. Ask them to fill the space within the frame.
3. Add color with colored pencils.
4. Ask the students to try the art trick that David Bates used in his art. Students should use the color RED somewhere in their artwork to help point out something of special value. Something they do not want us to miss seeing in their drawing.
5. The frame border around their artwork is to be filled with a PATTERN of their choice. Patterns can be simple or more complicated. They can make a pattern of 2 to 4 different squares but they must repeat. Demonstrate this on the white board.
6. Have students sign their artwork.
7. Clean up.
8. Once clean up is done have the students place their artwork on their desk and push in their chairs. Students can then quietly walk around their classroom/gallery and enjoy each other's artwork. They should look to see how others used the color red to get their attention. Remind everyone to use good manners and show respect to everyone.



Brief info about the artist: David Bates was born in Dallas, Texas in 1952. 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.

Brief info about the project: Today your student was introduced to the basic elements of art. Color, Shape, Line and Texture. They explored how to use these concepts to create Pattern. Your student based their drawing on an everyday life activity.

Picture of artwork



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