
Art Masterpiece: Clementine Hunter - The Wash

Keywords: Color, Shape, Line, Folk Art

Grade: Kindergarten and First

Activity: “The day in the Life of Me doing a Chore” Painting



Meet The Artist:

- Clementine Hunter was born in 1886 on a cotton plantation in Louisiana.
- She worked on the cotton plantation and raised five children.
- At the age of 53, she painted her first picture, on an old window blind, using leftover paint from old tubes of paint she found when an artist visited the plantation.
- She was encouraged to continue painting by a French writer who also visited the plantation. He gave her paints because she could not afford to buy her own.
- Her subject matter is what she knows from living in Louisiana and on a plantation. Dances, cotton and pecan picking, cooking, washing, caring for children, quilting, flowers and some portraits. She did not

always have a canvas to paint on so she often used discarded objects such as cardboard, brown paper bags, bottles.

- She created over 4,000 painting in 40 years.
 - She never took an art class. She never learned to read. Her paintings were her storybook – a storybook about everyday life on and around the plantation.
 - Clementine died at the age of 101 years old.
 - **Folk Art: where the subjects are taken from everyday life and surroundings.**
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Discussion:

Introduction of the basic ELEMENTS of ART:

Explain that all art begins with drawing a **LINE**.

- Let's try to find the lines in this piece of artwork.
- What other types of lines can you think of? (curvy, zig-zag, dotted, dashing)

Connecting different lines together create **SHAPE**.

- Let's look for different shapes. (circles, rectangles, squares, ovals, triangles, etc.)

Lastly, let's talk about **COLOR**.

- Color can be created by mixing and blending.
- Red, Yellow, and Blue are considered to be the primary colors.
- By mixing these three colors in different ways you can create the other colors of the rainbow. Orange, Purple and Green.
 - Red + Blue = Purple
 - Red + Yellow = Orange
 - Blue + Yellow = Green
- What would you add to a color to make it appear lighter? (white)
- Darker? (black)
- Red is a power color. Artists use RED to draw your eye to a certain area of artwork. Do you see the red? Why does the Clementine want us to notice the red clothing? Whose do they belong to?
- Brainstorm who the lady is with the RED hat.

What do you see in the painting? What are the people doing? (chores) Do you do chores?

Activity: “The Day in the Life of Me doing My Chores”

Materials: white construction paper or an assortment of found objects *** (card board, plastic bottles, lunch bags, etc.), tempera paint (including red), paint brushes in two sizes, water cups, paper towels, newsprint to cover desks.

Attn. Coordinator: Please consider having the students paint on found or discarded objects instead of just paper. It will add to the lesson and be very reflective of this artist’s work. Re-purposing our resources by creating art. What a great message to send our students.

Art guides: Please read through the entire set of directions prior to the session. There are several details that we want to have them incorporate. Line, shape, use of red, and to attempt color blending to create new color.

1. Have the students to think about a chore they do around the house. What room or area does it occur in? Who or what else may be in the room or area? Are they holding any objects such as a broom, garbage can, and dishes or maybe they are outside walking the dog?
2. Tell the students that today they are going to paint themselves doing a chore. Discourage using pencil to draw the scene. Students tend to draw too many details making it too hard to paint. Limit.
3. Hand-out the paper or found object, paint, and 2 brushes (fine and thick), water cup/towel to each student.
4. Have students put their name on the back of the paper (or object).
5. Explain that painting results can be best achieved if they are careful with the paintbrushes.
 - a. Cleaning the brush after each color.
 - b. Dabbing with paper towel to dry.
 - c. Using fine brush for small details. Large brush for large areas.
6. Tell students to begin by painting the background or setting.
7. Next add they should add themselves doing a chore. Encourage to keep it very simple like the artist Clementine did.
8. Students should remember what was discussed in looking at Clementine’s artwork and try to include different types of **LINES** and **SHAPES**. Students can try mixing **2 COLORS** together as they paint to create a new color. (mix on the paper not in the paint tray)
9. Lastly, have them use the color **RED** for something that is special and they want us to be sure to notice when we look at their artwork. Give them examples. (red food bowl for the dog, red rug on the floor , etc.)

Let Artwork Dry.



Chandler Unified School District Art Masterpiece Program Chandler, Arizona



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Parent Letter

Brief info about the artist:

Clementine Hunter (1886 -1988) was a self-taught African-American folk artist from Louisiana. She is the first African-American artist to have a solo exhibition at the present-day New Orleans Museum of Art.

Brief info about the project:

Today your student was introduced to the style of Folk Art. Students painted an ordinary scene of their personal life – “Doing a Chore”.

Picture of artwork**Brief info about the artist:**

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