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

Pronounced: Hwan Mee-RO
Keywords: Color, Line, Contrast, Abstract
Grade 1st - 4th
Activity: Abstract Creatures



Meet the Artist:

- Joan Miro 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.
- In art school Joan worked very hard. He especially loved drawing.
- He finished art school in 1919. Afterwards, he met famous artists like Pablo Picasso.
- His works started out being realistic with details and sparkling color. As he met more surrealist artists his own work became more abstract.
- **Abstract art** focuses on color, line, shape, imagination, and form and space.
- He lived a prosperous 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 mysterious fashion. Sur- real = better than real.

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

Learning more about the Artwork:

Miro used his imagination when he created this piece. We need to use our imagination when we look at it.

Miro's people and dog look as if they have come from another planet. They do not look like a photograph or realistic. Their bodies are big shapes full of bright colors. Their heads are clear like you can see through them.

The colors he chose are bright and clear.

The lines vary in style and in thickness.

The use of contrast is seen between light and dark colors, rough and smooth textures, clear and filled shapes etc.

Miro chose to paint the magical world he found in himself. We need to look at his painting long enough to put together a scene in our own minds to help us understand his creation.

Possible Questions:

- What colors do you see?
- How are they like colors you see in a box of brand new crayons or new markers? (colors are very clear and strong – not mixed with other colors.)
- Some colors look rough in texture. (background, blue, green)
- Other colors look smooth. (red, yellow, black)
- Look for different types of lines. (straight, curvy, squiggly ,diagonal)
- If you wanted to travel with your eyes from the red sun to the big face in the opposite corner, which lines would you follow?
- Start on one area of the painting and trace a path in the air with your finger. You will find lines that connect and guide you through the whole drawing.

- Describe what else 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?
- Find the black dots. How many are there?
- One dot is half red and half black, who can find it?

Activity: Joan Miro : *People and Dog in Sun*

Supplies: approx. 9 x 12" white card stock, one for each child
Colored markers, 1 box per child
black marker/one per child

Pre-Activity: (5 minutes max.)

First it's your turn....Follow this step by step process: On the whiteboard demonstrate how to create an abstract/surreal drawing of a person, animal or make believe creature by using lines to create shapes

- Start by drawing the head. Give them examples of head shapes. Big oval, small triangle, or a wiggly round. Draw all three.
- Demonstrate ideas for body shapes.
- Divide the body portion into other unique shapes. See below.
- Explain that arms and legs can be crazy lines or funny shapes. Show them several options.
- **STOP and look at Miro's artwork.** What are some details you can borrow from Miro to add to your creature?
 - Add some black dots on the end of some of the lines to imitate Miro.
 - Add a snowflake design
 - Add a Sun or Moon

 - Think of a title for your creatures. Write them on the white board.

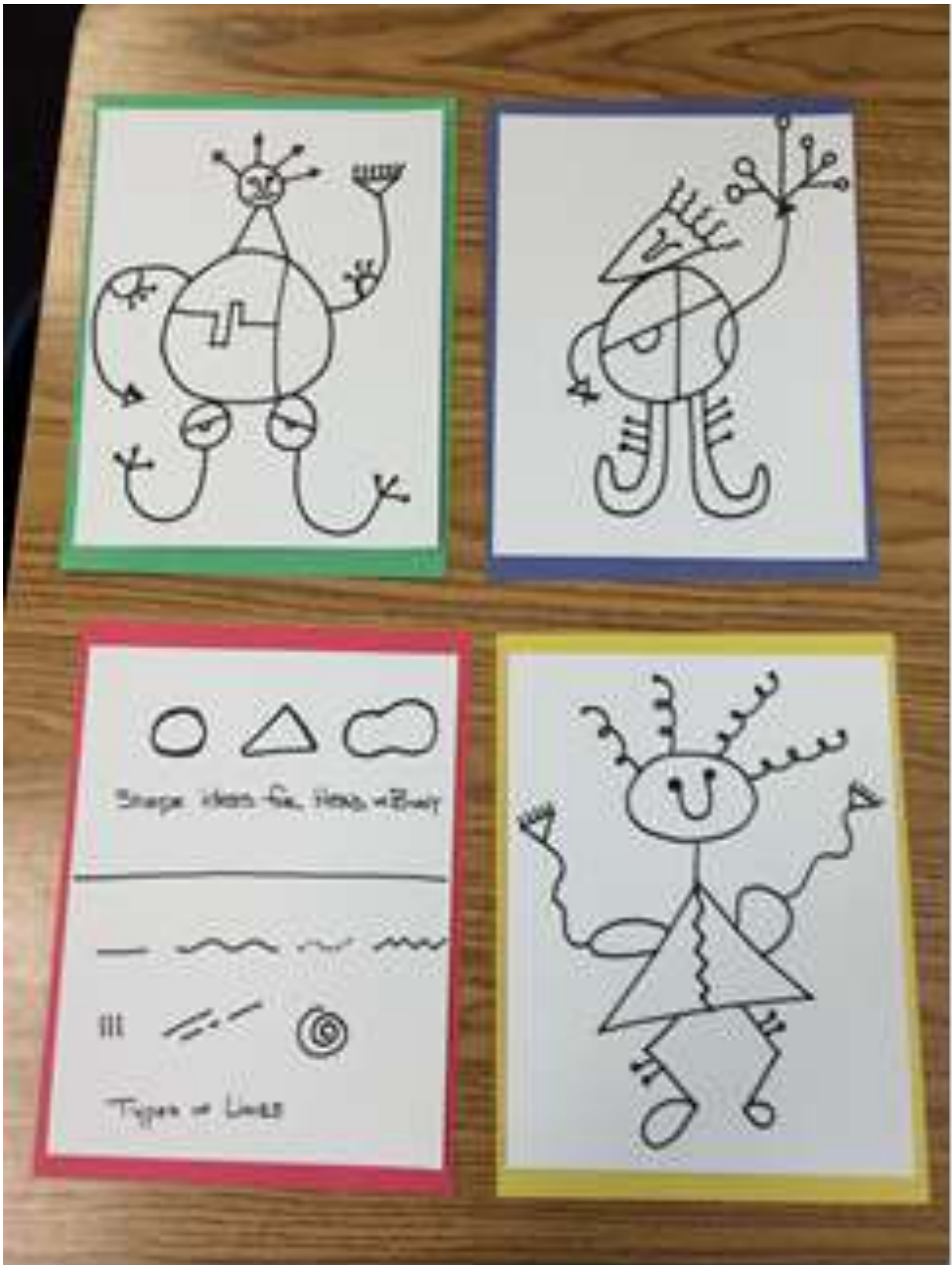
- Stress that these figures are not supposed to look realistic, like a photograph. **They are supposed to be ABSTRACT!**

Now it is time for the students to try.

Project Procedure: (Do Pre-activity first!...see above)

1. Distribute paper and have them turn paper vertically on their desk.
2. With pencils have students draw a head on their paper. It can be any size, shape.
3. Walk them through the process you did with them in the Pre-Activity on the white board when you created your figure.
4. Add the body. Suggest dividing the main body portion into other abstract shapes. This will make coloring in more fun.
5. Add arms, legs.
6. Add some details inspired from Miro. Dots on the ends of lines, a snowflake, sun or moon. Any or all. Their choice.
7. Next, have them trace over their creature with black markers.
8. Now fill in the design with colored markers.

9. Tell the students that they will want to leave some areas clear with no color. This contrast will make their work interesting to the eye.
10. They should add a title to their artwork. And, sign their name.
11. If time permits, have them place on top of their desk and as a class walk around the classroom to enjoy everyone's creative, abstract creatures.



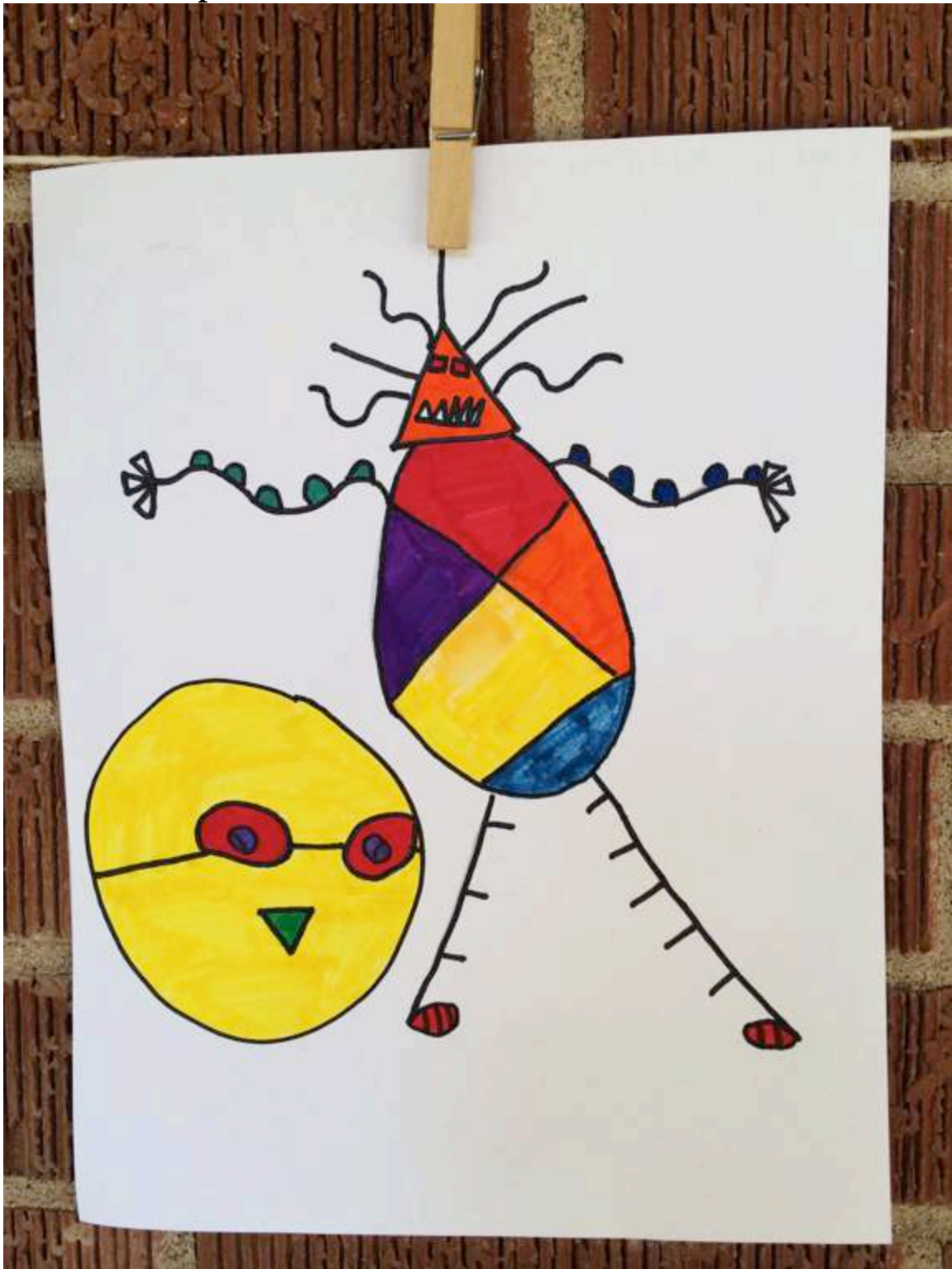
Chandler Unified School District Art Masterpiece

See Below for Step by Step Process.



Step by Step

Students Samples





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Brief info about the project: After a lesson on the basic elements of art (Shape, color, line and texture) students created their own Abstract creature done in the same style as Miro's " People and Dog in Sun".



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