

Mix It Up: A Creator's Journey of Exploration with Olivia

Description:

This workshop series will explore creating art through various mixed media, as well as upcycled materials. Each week we will focus on a different project and topic (some will take 2 or more weeks to complete. Some explorations will focus on creating with one material (pop- up paper craft cards), and others will combine various materials throughout the creative process (Kintsugi art with paper, marker, paint, pencil). We will also incorporate art as a creative way of storytelling into the process and projects.

*****Please note that this content can be adapted in length and focus to fit what is needed. For example: Single workshop focus on one activity only, focus on paper only art/craft, art + storytelling, shorter series, focusing only on specific topics, etc.**

Topics

Block Printing (cardboard + presto Foam + upcycled Materials + cardstock + glue + acrylic paint)

Origami (origami paper)

Negative Space + Collage (magazine clippings + stenciling + acrylic paint)

Kintsugi Art (paper + marker/paint/pencil)

Household Art (paper + sponges + q-tips + bottle caps, etc.)

Pop Up Cards (cardstock paper + glue + scissors + markers/pencils)

Sliding Cards(cardstock paper + glue + scissors + markers/pencils)

Flip Books (cardstock paper + glue + scissors + markers/pencils)

Magic Flashlight (marker/pencil + clear projector paper +cardstock)

Chain Painting (necklace chain + acrylic paint + cardstock)

Repousse (metal + acrylic paint + pen/stylus)

Marbling (liquid water color + shaving cream)

Clay + Nature Imprints (air dry clay + dried flower/leaves/twigs + acrylic paint)

Tunnel Books (cardstock + marker/pencil/paint)

Art + Plants (Terracotta pots + Acrylic Paint + Soil + Seeds/Plant Starters/Succulents)

Diorama- rama (cardstock + markers + glue + scissors)

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Series Outline

1. **Week 1: Introduction to Creative Exploration** (Block Printing Accordion Book)
 - Discuss what it means to be a creator and what exploration involves.
 - Activity: Create a "Creator's Passport" where kids document their journey.
 - Guided brainstorming session to generate project ideas.
 - Discussion on environmental impact and benefits of recycling in art.
2. **Week 2: Foam Prints**
3. **Week 3: Origami Lotus #1**
4. **Week 4: Origami Lotus #2**
5. **Week 5: Negative Space + Collage Part 1**
6. **Week 6: Negative Space + Collage Part 2**
7. **Week 7: Kintsugi Art**
8. **Week 8: Household Art**
9. **Week 9: Pop Up Cards**
10. **Week 10: Sliding Cards**
11. **Week 11: Flip Books**
12. **Week 12: Magic Flashlight**
13. **Week 13 : Chain Painting**
14. **Week 14: Repousee (metal art)**
15. **Week 15: Marbling**
16. **Week 16: Clay + Nature Imprints**
17. **Week 17: Tunnel Books**

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18. **Week 18: Art + Plants**

19. **Week 19: Diorama-rama**

Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan #1: Block Printing w Recycled Materials (1 hour lesson)

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Briefly introduce the concept of mixed media art and explain how it involves using a combination of different materials and techniques.
- Discuss the importance of recycling and how we can use recycled materials in art.

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Allow kids to explore a wide range of recycled materials (e.g. paper, fabric, plastic, cardboard).
- Facilitate a group brainstorming discussion about possible ideas for mixed media art projects. Encourage imaginative thinking.
- Show different “trash” materials and ask them to brainstorm more items that appear as trash.

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Have students create an accordion folded “book” with cardstock
- Have students select the materials they are most interested in using.
- Have students create 2–3 printing plates, by gluing their materials onto a piece of cardboard
- show examples of various techniques and ideas

4. Creation Time: Upcycled Block Print “Passport Book” (25 minutes)

- Guide students to begin working on their block printing project
- Encourage experimentation, such as layering different materials, combining textures, and integrating unexpected elements. Ask them to think about if there is a story or specific image they are trying to create.

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display their completed mixed media artworks.

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- Facilitate a discussion about their creations, focusing on the materials chosen, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #2: Block Printing w Presto Foam (1 hour lesson)

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Briefly introduce the concept of professional block prints and the process + materials involved.
- Introduce Presto Foam as a way to work up to engraving onto rubber when more advanced.
- Discuss the importance of finding different ways + materials to create different kinds of art

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Show examples of block prints done w/ presto foam
- Pass out foam to allow students to feel/see texture
- Have students practice creating different sizes, shapes, lines, using different pressure, widths, depths etc., as they engrave.
- Ask them to reflect how is this material different from the materials we used week before.

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Have students create different designs on their presto foam and block print into their accordion books
- Have them create 2-3 de accordion folded "book" with cardstock
- show examples of various techniques and ideas

4. Creation Time: Presto Foam block prints (25 minutes)

- Guide students to begin working on their block printing project
- Encourage experimentation, such as layering colors etc.
- Ask students to think of a story they'd like to tell through their designs.

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display their completed mixed media artworks.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Materials List

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6. Bonus Movement activity:

Ask them to walk around and do a movement/dance interpretation of what they see as they observe each person's art.

Lesson Plan #3: Origami Flowers 1

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Briefly introduce the concept of Origami and the history
- Introduce origami paper
- Show examples

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Pass out origami paper and have students try different folds

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Show a demo of the process, step by step, and do as a group
- Show different outcomes and variations
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4. Creation Time: Lotus Origami #1 (25 minutes)

- Have students create as many as they'd like and show option of gluing onto a cardstock
- Walk around to guide/help
- Have students think about the different color combinations they might choose-what story does it tell or symbolize?

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display their lotuses.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #4: Origami Flower 2

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1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Review the concept of Origami and the history
- Introduce origami paper
- Show examples of the 2nd flower variation

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Pass out origami paper and have students try different folds

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Show a demo of the process, step by step, and do as a group
- Show different outcomes and variations
-

4. Creation Time: Lotus Origami #2 (25 minutes)

- Have students create another if there is time
- Walk around to guide/help
- Have students think about the different color combinations they might choose-what story does it tell or symbolize?

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display their completed lotuses.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #5: Negative Space + Collage Part 1

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Review the concept of collaging
- Introduce the materials
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- How might we use collaging to tell a story?
- Have students decide on a personal theme

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials (magazines + glue)

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4. Creation Time: Collaging (25 minutes)

- Have students create their collage
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their collages
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #6: Negative Space + Collage Part 2

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the concept of “negative space” in art
- Introduce the materials
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- How might we use negative space to guide what we want the focus of our collage to be? How can this help us tell a story?
- Have students decide on a personal theme

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials (cardstock + acrylic paint/brushes + pencils)
- Have students create their negative space stencil

4. Creation Time: Negative Space Collaging Part 2 (25 minutes)

- Have students cut their stencil, draw the outline, paint around the stencil line
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their negative space art collages
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #7 Kintsugi Art

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

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- Introduce the concept and practice of Kintsugi and it's history
 - Introduce the materials
 - Show examples of in process + final
2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)
- How might we use the concept of Kintsugi (golden joinery) to tell a story?
 - Have students decide on a personal theme, represented by a shape, and how they envision "breaking" it apart and then putting it back together
3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)
- Pass out materials (cardstock + acrylic paint/brushes + pencils/markers + glue + scissors)
 - Have students create the first part: an entire shape cut out
4. Creation Time: Kintsugi Art (25 minutes)
- Have students work on dividing + "breaking" up their entire shape
 - Have students join their shape back together by using the other materials to "join" and "fill" the cracks in
 - Walk around to guide/help
5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)
- Allow students to display and show their Kintsugi art
 - Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #8 Household Art

1. Introduction (5 minutes)
- Introduce the concept using everyday household items to create art
 - Show examples of in process + final
2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)
- Introduce the materials
 - What are some other items that you might find in the house that you could paint with?
3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)
- Pass out materials (cardstock + various items + acrylic paint)

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- Have students experiment first with different shapes and textures they can create using these unconventional tools
- Have students think of a theme they want to create

4. Creation Time: Household Art (25 minutes)

- Have students create their art only using their non-conventional
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their household art creations.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #9 Pop Up Cards

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the concept of 3D paper art + pop up cards
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Introduce the materials
- What are some examples of 3D art you can think of?

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials
- Have students think of a theme they want to create for the card

4. Creation Time: Household Art (25 minutes)

- Guide students to create their personalized pop-up cards
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their pop-up cards.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

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Lesson Plan #10 Sliding Cards

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the concept of interactive moving paper art
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Introduce the materials
- What are some examples of art that you can think of that you can interact with and/or that moves after it's done being created?

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials
- Have students think of a theme they want to create

4. Creation Time: Household Art (25 minutes)

- Guide students create their sliding card art
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their sliding card art.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #11 Flip Books

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the concept of flip books , and how art can also be educational
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Introduce the materials
- What are some examples of art that also teaches you something?

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials
- Have students think of a simple concept they want to teach or show

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4. Creation Time: Flip books art (25 minutes)

- Have students create their flip books
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their flip books.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #12 Magic Flashlight

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the concept how art can sometimes create optical illusions
- Show examples of in process + final

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Introduce the materials
- What is something that you cannot usually see in the dark?

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Pass out materials
- Have students think of a theme (under the sea, cats, dragons, etc.)

4. Creation Time: Flip books art (25 minutes)

- Have students create their base, then flashlight with cardstock
- Walk around to guide/help

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display and show their magic flashlight art.
- Facilitate a discussion about their creations and stories, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Lesson Plan #13 Chain Painting

Lesson Plan #14 Repousse (metal art)

Lesson Plan #15 Marbling

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Lesson Plan #16 Clay + Nature Imprints

Lesson Plan #17 Tunnel Books

Lesson Plan #18 Art + Plants

Lesson Plan #19 Diorama-rama

Additional Ideas:

Adaptations for Different Ages

- Younger Children: Provide pre-cut shapes and templates, and simplify the task by assigning a theme, such as "Under the Sea" or "Outer Space."
- Older Children: Encourage more complex projects and self-directed work, such as incorporating 3D elements or using additional techniques like printmaking or collage.

Movement Break

Recycled Materials Scavenger Hunt (5 minutes)

- Have the kids move around the room or outdoor area to find small, safe recycled items to add to the class's shared supply of materials.

Bonus Activities

- Collaborative Art Piece: After completing their individual projects, encourage the group to create a large, collaborative mixed media mural using any leftover recycled materials.

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- Art Gallery Walk: Set up a mini "gallery" walk where students can walk around and view each other's artwork, providing positive feedback.

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Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

Mix It Up: A Creator's Journey of Exploration

Duration

1 Hour

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

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- Discuss the importance of recycling and how we can use recycled materials in art.

2. Exploration and Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- Allow kids to explore a wide range of recycled materials (e.g. paper, fabric, plastic, cardboard).
- Facilitate a group brainstorming discussion about possible ideas for mixed media art projects. Encourage imaginative thinking.

3. Planning and Sketching (10 minutes)

- Have students select the materials they are most interested in using.
- Instruct them to sketch a simple plan or concept for their art piece in their sketchbooks or on paper.

4. Creation Time: Mixed Media Artwork (25 minutes)

- Guide students to begin working on their art projects using their selected recycled materials and sketches as a guide.
- Encourage experimentation, such as layering different materials, combining textures, and integrating unexpected elements.

5. Share and Reflect (10 minutes)

- Allow students to display their completed mixed media artworks.

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- Facilitate a discussion about their creations, focusing on the materials chosen, challenges faced, and what they learned through the process of experimentation and exploration.

Materials List

- Recycled materials (e.g. paper, fabric scraps, plastic containers, cardboard pieces)
- Scissors
- Glue and tape
- Paints and brushes
- Markers and colored pencils
- Sketchbooks or plain paper for planning
- Containers for sorting materials

Adaptations for Different Ages

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Series Outline

1. **Week 1: Introduction to Creative Exploration**

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- Discuss what it means to be a creator and what exploration involves.
- Activity: Create a "Creator's Passport" where kids document their journey.
- Guided brainstorming session to generate project ideas.

2. **Week 2: The Art of Recycling**

- Collect and identify commonly discarded materials (paper, plastic, etc.).
- Activity: Create sculptures or models using recycled materials.
- Discussion on environmental impact and benefits of recycling in art.

3. **Week 3: Mixed Media Masterpieces**

- Explore different materials and textures (fabric, wood, paper, etc.).
- Activity: Create a mixed media collage incorporating various textures.
- Introduce the concept of layering and visual balance.

4. **Week 4: Exploring Mixed Art Forms**

- Discuss combining different art forms (e.g., painting with photography).
- Activity: Create an art piece that combines two different art styles.
- Encourage sharing ideas and influences from each art form.

5. **Week 5: Experimenting with Techniques**

- Introduce unconventional art techniques (using sponges, marbles).
- Activity: Perform a "how many techniques can you use?" challenge.
- Discuss the outcomes and learning experiences of experimentation.

6. **Week 6: The Science of Creativity**

- Explore connections between art and science (color mixing, symmetry).
- Activity: Experiment with color mixing, including making secondary colors.
- Observation challenge: Explore everyday items and find art in science.

7. **Week 7: Interactive Art**

- Create art that can be interacted with physically or digitally.
- Activity: Assemble an installation piece or digital art project.
- Discuss the impact and experience of interactive artworks.

8. **Week 8: Exploration through Field Trips**

- Virtual or physical visit to a local art gallery or museum.
- Activity: Sketch or photograph favorite pieces and discuss inspiration.
- Encourage kids to identify and analyze different art styles observed.

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9. **Week 9: Storytelling through Art**

- Discuss how stories can be told through creative works.
- Activity: Create a storyboard or zine that tells a personal story.
- Group sharing session to narrate the stories in their works.

10. **Week 10: Celebration and Reflection**

- Organize an exhibition to showcase completed artworks.
- Reflection activity: Discuss what they enjoyed or learned over the weeks.
- Present "Creator's Passports" and celebrate newfound skills and ideas.

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!

