

Peter Max Inspired Paper Mache Guitars

Instructor: Jill Glad

Duration: Approximately 7 class periods

Class/Grade: 7-8th Grade

Objectives:

Students will...

- Learn and discuss how music has been a prevalent subject in art work throughout history
- Compare and contrast how the musical culture of today may be similar or different to the cultures of the past.
- Learn about the life and work of American pop artist Peter Max, and understand how his artwork can be an inspiration in creating our own pop art that relates to musical themes.
- Learn basic paper mache techniques and create a paper mache guitar based on the style of Peter Max

Day 1

- Explore and discuss a presentation that discusses how musical themes can be seen throughout art of the past. Have a group discussion about how the musical culture of today may be different from those of the past. Look at current American artist Peter Max and discuss how he approaches the theme of music in his artwork. We will talk about Peter Max being classified a pop artist. Pop art is art that is influenced by the current pop culture. Give a brief overview of the project we are going to be creating. We are going to make a paper mache guitar. You can design your guitar however you want to, but consider that you need to actually construct it in 3-dimensional space. To start today everyone will get a piece of 12x18 drawing paper. Use this to sketch out the basic shape of your guitar. Decide what kind of theme your guitar will have. Are you going to have an abstract design with just lines and patterns on it? Are you going to write the name of a band or artist on it? Do you want to do a self-portrait on it? Think about what you want your guitar to represent. Remember you are creating a piece of pop art, so it should reference your culture, or the culture around you.

Day 2

- Go over the project for the first five minutes. Review what we learned last time. Take about five minutes to finish up our ideas and use scissors to cut out our sketches. We are going to use these as templates for our construction. Everyone will get 2 pieces of 12x18 cardboard. You will use one for the front of your guitar and one for the back. You need to trace your original sketch onto your cardboard and then cut out your cardboard frame. I will do a demonstration on how to create a 3-dimensional form. The rest of class can be devoted to the beginning of the construction process.

Day 3

- Continue to add newspaper and masking tape to build up the structure of our guitars. Walk around and help where needed. Make sure we go over the vocabulary words, and basic objectives of the lesson.

Day 4

- Today we will begin to add paper mache. I will have students gather around the middle table for a quick demonstration. In order to keep the paper mache process as clean as possible I am going to have buckets of water on each table that students can use to rinse their hands in if they get too messy. This should eliminate people getting up to wash their hands. Go over the process of adding paste to strips of newspaper and applying the stripes to the surface of our structure. Make sure to get the newspaper to lay as flat as possible. If you don't push down all the wrinkles they will dry all crinkled.

Day 5

- Another day of paper mache. Continue to add paste and newspaper until you cover all the edges of the guitar. Try to finish up today so that next time we can begin to paint. Assess how far students are at this point and see if we need one more day to paper mache or if we can move on.

Day 6

- Begin adding paint. Before we start with the painting we need to go over a quick demonstration. Remind students that they need to get their initial sketch out to follow their design. Go over the basic color theory we talked about from our last project. If you want to mix colors then consider that analogous colors mix better than complementary colors. If there is a color that we don't have then you can mix it in the lid of the paint tray.

Day 7

- Continue painting our guitars and adding embellishments. We can add strings, and tuning pegs with buttons, gems, and yarn. Try to begin adding the finishing touches.