LESSON 6

Black History Month
Faith Ringgold
Paper Quilts
LESSON OVERVIEW

Black History Month is a celebration of Black American achievements and an opportunity to honor the critical role of African Americans in US history. In line with this important month, the focus is on artist Faith Ringgold. Ringgold took the traditional craft of quilt making (which has its roots in the slave culture of the south - pre-civil war era) and re-interpreted its function to tell stories of her life and those of others in the black community. Students will learn about primary, secondary and complimentary colors to make a paper quilt collage in Ringgold's style.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Black History Month.
- Learn about Faith Ringgold and her work.
- Learn about primary, secondary and complimentary colors.
- Create symbols to make a paper quilt.

SUPPLIES

- Scissors.
- Pencils.
- Erasers.
- Glue.
- Multi-colored construction paper in primary, secondary and complimentary colors.
- 12” x 18” white paper.
- Images of Faith Ringgold’s quilts.
- Samples of primary, secondary and complimentary colors.

FAITH RINGGOLD

Faith Ringgold (October 8, 1930 - present) was born in Harlem, New York City. She is an American Multi-media artist, Social Activist, Author and Art Professor. Ringgold was born just after the Harlem Renaissance which was a cultural, social, and artistic explosion considered to be a rebirth of African American arts. Ringgold’s early art and activism are inextricably intertwined. Her art confronted prejudice directly and made political statements, often using the shock value of racial slurs within her works to highlight the ethnic tension, political unrest, and the race riots of the 1960s. Her works provide crucial insight into perceptions of white culture by African Americans and vice versa. She combines her African heritage and artistic traditions with her artistic training to create paintings, multi-media soft sculptures, and “story quilts” that elevate the sewn arts to the status of fine art. Ringgold consciously chooses to lend a folk-art quality to techniques in her story quilts as a means of emphasizing their narrative importance over compositional style. She quilts her stories in order to be heard. All of her work is focused on storytelling of social issues of the African American society. Many of her quilts have inspired childrens books that she later made such as Tar Beach, Ringgold’s best known work. Learn More
LESSON PLAN

Before beginning the lesson, introduce or review primary, secondary and complimentary colors with the students. Then introduce the work of Faith Ringgold through image samples of her quilts. Highlight not only the story that may be told in the quilt but also the color themes within the quilts. Have students discuss what they see in Ringgold’s quilts.

1. Introduce the lesson by explaining that students will be making their own quilt out of paper in pattern or collage format. They will be creating shapes, symbols etc. that can be used repeatedly in their quilt. Since it is the month of February, they may create symbols of love such as a heart if they so choose.

2. Students will each receive a piece of 12” x 18” blank white paper. This will be the base of their quilt. Students will then be given a variety of primary and secondary colored construction papers. These papers will be precut into 4” x 4” squares.

3. Students will cover the 12” x 18” paper with the 4” x 4” squares using a variety of colors to replicate a quilt.

4. Students will create symbols of love or other symbols and cut them out to place on each quilt tile. Die cut images could also be used to facilitate this process. Emphasize complimentary color schemes so that their symbols can be placed to illustrate this idea i.e. red symbol on blue paper.

5. The finished project will be a paper collage quilt with symbols of love or other themes represented.
KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO VISUAL ARTS CORE CURRICULUM:
Based on Utah State Visual Arts Core Curriculum Requirements (3rd Grade) Click on links to see more.

Standard 3.V.CR.1  Standard 3.V.P.3
Standard 3.V.CR.2  Standard 3.V.R.1
Standard 3.V.CR.3  Standard 3.V.R.2
Standard 3.V.CR.5  Standard 3.V.R. 3
Standard 3.V.P.1  Standard 3.V.C0.1
Standard 3.V.C0.2

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES
Click on links to learn more.
• http://color-wheel-artist.com/primary-colors.html
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storytelling
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol
• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collage
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem_Renaissance

Brought to you by:

A special thanks to our sponsors: