



eva

ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

1

Joan Miro

Elements of Art

Verbal Directions

LESSON OVERVIEW

Joan Miró (1893-1983) was a famous Spanish artist, who created innovative and dreamlike paintings with simple color choices and symbolism. Inspired by Miro's style, students will work with a variety of art supplies to explore lines, shapes, patterns and colors while learning the elements of art and principles of design.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the artist Joan Miró and his work.
- Experiment with various media and tools to communicate ideas and emotions.
- Learn about composition and symbols.
- Use the elements of art and principles of design.

SUPPLIES

- Images of Miró's artwork
- Color Wheel Chart
- Art pencils
- Large drawing paper (16" x 20" or 11" x 17" or 8.5" x 11").
- Watercolor paints and/or watercolor pencils
- Different sizes and styles of paint brushes (bristle, foam, sponge, etc.)
- Sharpies

JOAN MIRO



Joan Miró i Ferrà (1893-1983) was a famous Catalan Spanish painter, sculptor and ceramicist born in Barcelona, Spain. Miro was innovative and less interested in traditional painting techniques, so he created his own style. He focused more on the symbols and the message that was being portrayed, as opposed to the actual image. He allowed the drawing to flow freely from his mind. He invented shapes, almost life like forms, instead of creating realistic paintings. This new abstract style influenced many artist that came after him. [Learn More](#)



LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce students to the life and work of Joan Miró. Focus on using the elements of art and principles of design to describe his paintings.

- Describe what you see. What do you think about this kind of art?
- Is what you see recognizable? Can you name it?
- What elements of art is he using? What is a line? What kind of lines does he use?
- What kind of colors does he use?

2. Pass out a blank sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Have students practice inventing and imagining unrecognizable shapes until they fill the page. Emphasize experimentation and variety. Discuss the process and difficulty of using basic shapes and lines to create an abstract image.

3. For the final art piece, pass out a (large) sheet of paper, pencils and erasers. Use a list of simple directions to make an abstract drawing (teachers are not limited to these prompts):

- Start with a simple shape
- Add on another shape
- Connect it with lines
- Add smaller details
- Fill in a shape with value

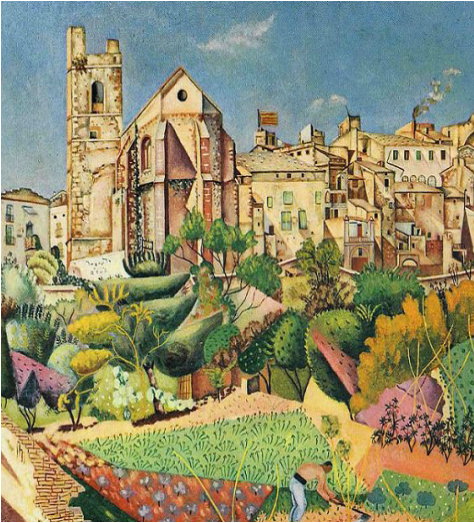
Emphasize imaginative non-recognizable shapes.

4. Discuss Miró's limited use of color and look at the color wheel to discuss primary and secondary colors. Demonstrate how to use watercolor pencils. Students can add color to their shapes and background with a brush and water to activate the watercolor pencil and to cover the surface of the drawing.

5. Take a walk around the room and talk about how each student interpreted instructions in their own unique way. Discuss the line quality and imagined shapes in each piece. Have student write about their experience making abstract art.

EVA +: Using construction paper (primary and secondary colors) students cut out shapes to create their own abstract character or life like form inspired by Miró's artwork. Students can use sharpies to add details.





**KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:
Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements
(1st Grade).**

VA:Cr1.1.Ka:

Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

VA:Cr3.1.1a:

Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

VA:Cr2.1.1a:

Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

VA:Cn11.1.1a:

Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of reasons.



STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:

Stretch & Explore: Learning to reach beyond one's capacities, to explore playfully without a preconceived plan, and to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.notablebiographies.com/Ma-Mo/Mir-Joan.html>
- <https://www.theartstory.org/artist-miro-joan.htm>
- <https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/joan-miro>
- <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/spain/articles/joan-miro-9-amazing-facts-about-his-life-and-art/>
- <https://www.joan-miro.net/joan-miro-paintings.jsp>

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