eva
ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS
Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON
5

Roy Lichtenstein
Comics - Self-portrait

Verbal Directions

LESSON OVERVIEW

Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) was an American painter who is well known for his pop art paintings of everyday objects. His paintings are instantly recognizable because of his trademark style using the Ben-Day dot pattern. After learning about comics and cartoon faces, in the style of Lichtenstein, students will create a comic self portrait.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES
▪ Learn about the artist Roy Lichtenstein and his art work,
▪ Understand how his style was inspired by comic strips.
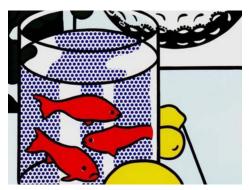▪ Understand facial proportions and create a comic self portrait.

ROY LICHTENSTEIN

Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) was an American painter who is well-known for his pop art paintings of everyday objects. As a boy he had a passion for both science and comic books. He took watercolor classes at Parsons School of Design, and then took classes at the Art Students League. His paintings are instantly recognizable because of his trademark style using the Ben-Day dot pattern. This pattern was borrowed from commercial printing of comic books, newspapers, and other mainstream media of the time. He wanted his paintings to look like they were made by a machine. He is famous for his use of primary colors and cartoon strips from American comic books. He didn't simply copy the comics, he cropped the images and changed the text to create an entirely new story. Putting comics in a gallery is a reason why Lichtenstein became one of the most important figures in the Pop art movement. Learn More

LESSON PLAN

1. Take a closer look at Lichtenstein's artwork, his life and achievements. Ask students:
   ▪ Do these paintings remind you of anything?
   ▪ Are comics Art?
   ▪ He is using cartoons that already exist - but painting them differently and on a big canvas, is this copying?

2. Show students image samples of an array of works such as *Look Mickey, Drowning Girl* and the *Girl with a Hair Ribbon*. These are samples of his art that are inspired by comics and cartoons. Notice the detail in the portraits and how he captures the expression of the characters.
   ▪ How do facial expressions tell a story?
   ▪ What kind of text does he use in his art?
   ▪ What is the difference between a realistic drawing of the face and a cartoon portrait?

3. Students are now going to create their own portrait in a comic style with benday dots. First review features of the face and talk about where they are located in relation to each other, i.e. eyes in relation to nose, etc. Have students draw a basic face on sketch paper to practice.

4. On a final piece of paper, draw the face together while demonstrating step by step. Start with the shape of the head. Then create an axis on the face : a vertical and horizontal line intersecting at the center. To make the eyes, draw an oval shape with a slight tilt to the side at the top. Repeat on opposite side. Add eyelashes, pupils and eyebrows with personality. Demonstrate how to draw a variety of noses, mouths and ears, so that students can find inspiration that describes them. Finally, add hair. Show examples of a variety of hairstyles.

5. Now, in the style of Roy Lichtenstein, have students fill in the comic self portrait using Lichtenstein's palette of red, white, blue, black, yellow and ben day dots. Encourage students to incorporate open (uncolored) areas as well as areas of solid color, patterns of lines, bold lines, and dots. Ask students to share their comic self-portraits and ask them to talk about the characteristics of the cartoon that reflect their personality.

EVA+: Continue studying Lichtenstein and practice drawing a lansdcape or a still life in a comic book style.

KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:
Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (2nd Grade).
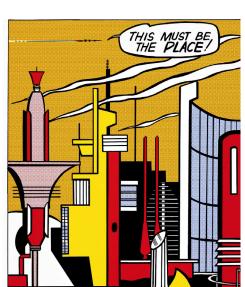
VA:Cr3.1.2a:
Discuss and reflect with peers about choices made in creating artwork.

VA:Re8.1.3a:
Analyze how art exhibited inside and outside of schools (such as in museums, galleries, virtual spaces, and other venues) contributes to communities.

VA:Re8.1.2a
Interpret art by categorizing subject matter and identifying the characteristics of form.
Interpret art by identifying the mood suggested by a work of art and describing relevant subject matter and characteristics of form..

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES
Click on links to learn more.
- https://lichtensteinfoundation.org
- https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/roy-lichtenstein-1508
- https://www.britannica.com/biography/Roy-Lichtenstein
- https://www.moma.org/collection/terms/ben-day-dots
- https://www.amazon.com/Cartoon-Faces-Features-Expressions-Academy/dp/1936096749

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