

eva

ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

7

Jeff Koons

Kinetic Art

Verbal Directions

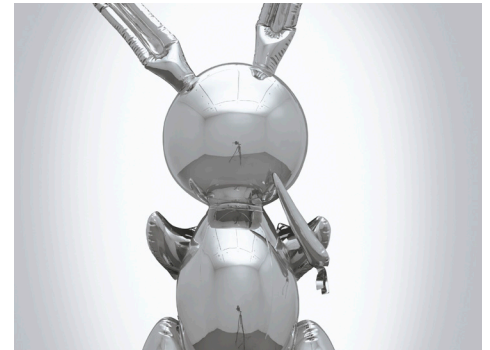
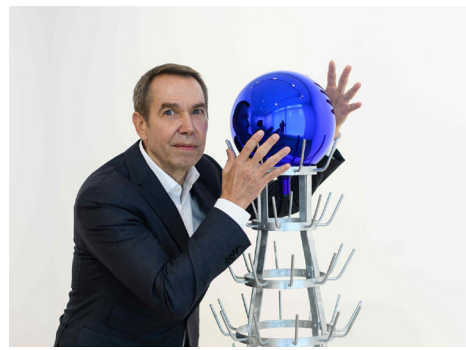
LESSON OVERVIEW

Jeff Koons (born 1955) is an American artist known for his sculptures that copy popular culture objects. Students will learn about Jeff Koons and his artwork. Using clay, students will make their own Koons like balloon animals while exploring working in three dimensions.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Create clay sculptures inspired by Jeff Koons' balloon animals to explore 3D art.
- Understand Jeff Koons' modern art style and its concepts.
- Learn clay sculpting techniques for making balloon animal-inspired art.
- Express creativity while sculpting, drawing from Koons' inspiration.

JEFF KOONS



Jeff Koons (born 1955) is an American artist known for his sculptures that copy popular culture objects. He was born in York, Pennsylvania in 1955. When he was nine years old he copied paintings by well-known artists. He then studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Koons currently lives and works in New York City. He finds inspiration from things you might see at a yard sale: inflatable plastic toys, vacuum cleaners, porcelain trinkets and other items not usually considered fine art. His style is described as Neo-Pop, a 1980s movement that looked to earlier Pop artists, particularly Warhol, for inspiration. He turns cheap objects into expensive artwork and likes to make art that pleases people. His works have sold for large sums of money, setting a world record. Koons does not make his own artwork, he employs assistants and fabricators to copy these objects in fine materials such as porcelain, crystal, and stainless steel. He says: "I'm basically the idea person. I'm not physically involved in the production!" [Learn More](#)

SUPPLIES

- Air-dry clay or modeling clay
 - Sculpting tools (or plastic knives, toothpicks, or other household items can work)
 - Images or examples of Jeff Koons' balloon animal sculptures
 - Work surfaces (plastic sheets or wax paper)
 - Water (for smoothing clay)
- Optional: Paints and brushes for decoration (for air-dry clay)



LESSON PLAN

1. Show examples of Jeff Koons' balloon animal sculptures, discussing his use of everyday objects as inspiration for art. Explain the project: creating balloon animal sculptures using clay, emphasizing the exploration of three-dimensional art.

- How do these balloon-like sculptures make you feel? What do you think they're meant to make people feel?
- How do you think Jeff Koons made these sculptures? Why do you think he chose to make them look like balloons?
- Do you think these sculptures have a special meaning or message? What do you think it might be?
- If you could touch or play with these sculptures, what would you want to do with them? How do they make you think about having fun or playing?

2. Provide each student with a lump of clay and reference images of Koons' balloon animal sculptures and real animals for inspiration. Encourage students to sketch their intended sculpture design based on these references before starting to work with the clay. This preliminary sketching step allows them to visualize and plan their sculpture, ensuring a clearer direction before they begin sculpting.

3. Demonstrate basic techniques for working with clay, including rolling, pinching, and shaping to create forms. Guide students to start sculpting their own balloon animal forms using the clay. Encourage them to focus on exaggerated curves, loops, and geometric shapes reminiscent of balloon animals.

4. Students can use sculpting tools or household items to refine details and smooth surfaces as they sculpt their clay into balloon animal shapes. If using air-dry clay, allow sculptures to dry according to the product instructions. When using modeling clay, prepare the surfaces by kneading or roughening them for better adhesion. Apply pressure when joining the clay pieces, ensuring a tight connection, and then seamlessly blend the edges together using fingers or tools. Consider providing additional support or reinforcing the bond with extra clay if necessary. Allow adequate time for the joined pieces to set before continuing with further sculpting or shaping. If using modeling clay, sculptures can be left as is. If using air dry clay - Once dry, students can paint their sculptures using vibrant colors similar to Koons' artwork.

5. Have students share their balloon animal sculptures with the class. Encourage discussions about the challenges faced and the techniques they used while working in three dimensions. Display the finished sculptures in the classroom or create a gallery to showcase the students' artwork.

EVA+: Discuss the significance of Koons' art in contemporary art and its impact on pop culture.





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

VA:Cr2.1.Ka

Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art- making.

VA:Cr3.1.Ka:

Explain the process of making art while creating..

VA:Re.7.2.Ka

Describe what an image represents



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <http://www.theartstory.org/artist-calder-alexander.htm>
- https://kids.kiddle.co/Jeff_Koons
- <https://primaryfacts.com/9056/jeff-koons-facts/>
- <https://whitney.org/education/schools-educators/k-12/teaching-materials/teacher-guides/jeff-koons>

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