



ARTIST TO ARTIST



CRAFT ACTIVITIES TO HELP INTRODUCE YOUR CHILD TO THE WORLD OF ART

Just as adults visiting a gallery each have their own interpretation of what is occurring in a piece, so too do children with their magnificent imaginations. It is so important for them to understand there is no right or wrong answer when unpacking a piece of art. They can read into it whatever they feel, artist's intent aside.

The simple act of looking, thinking, feeling and discussing is such an amazing skill to build with your child. In this newsletter you will find 3 craft activities linked with artists to reflect on. To make this simple and easy some guidelines on how to 'reflect' are included and the craft activities selected use easily accessible materials and objects. Enjoy,
Deb xx

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THE UNPACKING

There are some simple questions you can ask your child that will help nurture their curiosity and interest in a piece of work. Remember there is no right or wrong, it's all about opinion. If your child asks questions about the artist, use this opportunity to research together.

Once you have Googled the artist work, select one image and give them some reflection time.

Then try asking:

What do you see?

Does it remind you of anything?

How does it make you feel?

Do you like it?

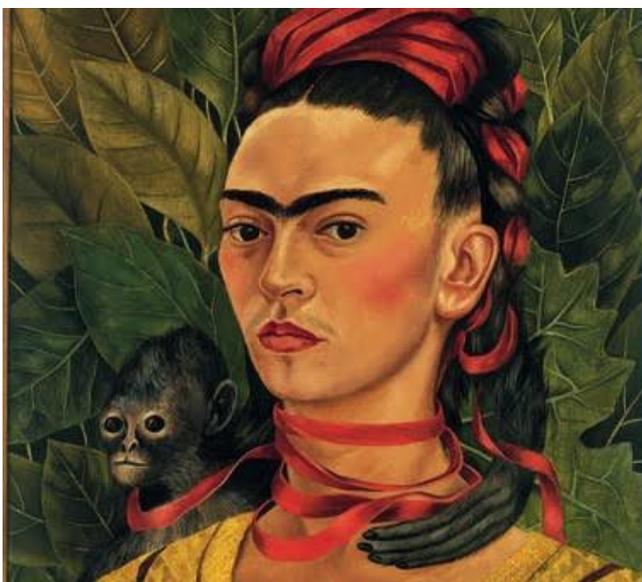
What do you think the artist was thinking about?

What do you think it's made from?



If your child is not connecting with the work keep it simple. This is a fun creative time and they may be happier to respond to the work visually through the act of making, rather than verbalising their ideas.

Once your child's craft activity is completed you may wish to sit down again and reflect on the artists work. Look at any similarities between the pieces, talk about the different shapes, colours and materials used. By encouraging this post-making reflection you give greater value to your child's work. It helps them see that art is a fun and accessible part of our world filled with wonder.



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**ARTIST -
CLAES OLDENBURG**

**ACTIVITY -
FOOD SCULPTURE**

Claes Oldenburg was known for his hard and soft food sculptures of varying scales. He depicted everyday objects, challenging traditional notions of subject matter. Kids love this one. Let them make whatever foods spark their interest. Just be mindful that objects which are too thick will not harden properly. Once completed, the activity can turn into a picnic with toys. Any air dry clay can be used, but here is an easy Salt Dough Recipe.



Salt Dough Recipe

Makes 1 ball/Prep 10 minutes/Cook 3 hours

1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)

1/2 cupful of table salt (about 125g)

1/2 a cupful of water (about 125ml)

- Preheat the oven to its lowest setting and line a baking sheet with grease proof paper.
- Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add the water and stir until it comes together into a clean ball.
- Transfer the dough to a floured work surface and shape into your chosen model.
- Put your finished items on the lined baking sheet and pop in the oven for 3 hours or until solid.
- Leave to cool and then paint.



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**ARTIST -
ALEXANDER CALDER**

**ACTIVITY -
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION**

Alexander Calder was most famously known for his kinetic sculptures that are motor or wind powered. They are whimsical and embrace a notion of 'chance' which keeps viewers engaged.

Venture outside to the garden, have a wander to the local park or the beach and collect an array of objects offered by nature. Be sure to collect a larger stick as a support rod on which to build the mobile from. This activity also encourages thinking about weight and balance. Objects may also be painted prior to construction if this interests your child.

Suggested materials:

larger sticks

string/twine/wool

scissors

found objects (leaves, twigs, gum nuts, pine cones, flowers, bark, seed pods, feathers, pebbles, shells, dried seaweed)



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ARTIST- CHRISTO AND JEANNE- CLAUDE

ACTIVITY - TEXTILE WRAP

Christo and Jeanne-Claude are artists working together that are famous for covering large buildings and sections of landscape. They aim to bring joy to people and make us look at our familiar surroundings in a different way. Creating pieces all over the world, they create breathe taking work.

Children can use scraps of fabric or wool to cover an everyday object and re-imagine their familiar surroundings.

In this example twigs are used, however children can work outside and wrap a tree trunk.

Suggested materials:

Twigs or branches

Selection of wool/yarn in varying colours and textures



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