



Action Figure Collage

GRADE: 6 and up
sessions

TIME: one or two

Developed by Linda Pfisterer, Art Specialist

KIT INCLUDES:

- lesson plan
- vocabulary board
- book: Rondo
- collage example boards (2) (with Miriam Schapiro biography)
- teaching boards
 - painting steps
 - action people steps
- pattern masters (6)
- mannequins
 - front view (12)
 - side view (12)

MATERIALS:

- tempera cake paints in assorted colors, 5/set
- #8 or #10 paint brushes
- water cups
- Xeroxed patterned paper in assorted colors
- construction paper:
 - 3.5" x 4" assorted colors
 - 9" x 12" white
 - 9" x 12" assorted colors
 - 12" x 18" black
- pencils, glue



LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students look at and learn about the collages of contemporary artist Miriam Schapiro. They paint a background and use mannequins to draw and create an action figure. The parts are embellished and assembled into a collage.

VOCABULARY:

painting technique:
wet-on wet
mannequin
contrast
embellish
mixed media collage

ART ELEMENTS:

☒ Line
☒ Shape/Form
☒ Color
☒ Value
☒ Texture
☐ Space/Perspective

ART PRINCIPLES:

☒ Pattern
☒ Rhythm/movement
☐ Proportion/Scale
☐ Balance
☐ Unity
☒ Emphasis

CONTENT CONNECTIONS:

Visual culture
Social studies
Story illustration

THEMES:

People in action

OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

1. Students will learn about Miriam Schapiro, a contemporary artist who makes collages with painted papers.
2. Students will use the wet-on-wet painting technique to create a background.
3. Students will manipulate mannequins into an action position for the people in the collage.
4. Students will add detail by making clothing from textured and patterned paper to embellish the design.

PREPARE:

1. Read and review the lesson plan. Make an example before teaching for best results.
2. Xerox the patterned paper in many bright colors. Cut papers to separate patterns.
3. Cut small pieces of metallic wrapping paper (recycled is fine).
4. Gather painting materials.
5. Cut papers from the materials list.
6. Copy and cut out title/artist labels included in lesson plan.

ENGAGE AND EXPLORE:

Display the fold-out boards with the Miriam Schapiro information and her art.

Explain to the students that Miriam Schapiro is a Canadian-born American artist, born in 1923. She lives and works in New York City. She is a mixed media artist, which means she likes to put together many kinds of materials and techniques. Her action figure art that you see in this lesson are collages made with painted backgrounds and cut out people. She wants the people in her collages to show movement, so many of the body parts or clothing are attached with separate paper pieces to emphasize the movement. Schapiro likes to “draw” with her scissors for more abstract pieces of paper. Study and discuss each of the five Schapiro collages in this fold-out.

Show the Rondo book.

Rondo is the title of a book that contains Schapiro’s collages. Besides her action people, she collaged other objects. She used wallpaper and other printed papers to give pattern and texture to her work.



CREATE:

PAINTING PROCESS

Prepare:

1. Students pick up supplies: paper (9”x12” white and 12”x18” black), tempera cakes, brushes, water cups, glue and paper towels.

Organize supplies on desks.

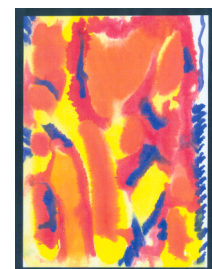
2. Glue the 9”x12” white paper to the 12”x18” black paper. Use a thin spaghetti line of glue all around the outside. Center it so the collage will be in a vertical or horizontal format.



Vertical or horizontal

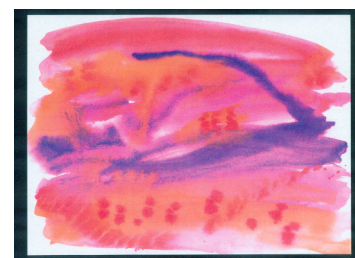
Paint : Display the demonstration board.

3. Consider what two or three colors you plan to use for the background. Too many colors of paint will create confusion and make it difficult to see the action people you add to the collage later.



4. Wet-on-wet painting technique: brush water on paper and add paint quickly before it dries. Keep colors bright by overlapping new colors with only one brush stroke. Colors bleed into each other.

Important: Stop painting before “overworking” the colors.



ACTION PEOPLE

Display the demonstration board.

1. Students should consider what action they want for their person and then choose a mannequin, front or side view. Spend time arranging the arms and legs. Some students may want to make two people.

2. Choose a colored 9" x 12" paper that contrasts against the painted background. Place the mannequin on the paper and draw around it or free hand draw the action by looking at the mannequin. Encourage the free hand drawing even if it is not realistic. The less realistic figure might have more character.

3. Cut out the drawn mannequins.

4. Reshape the body by cutting away parts of the arms and legs for a better form. The arms and legs may be too thick, and the feet and hands are more interesting with carefully cut detail.

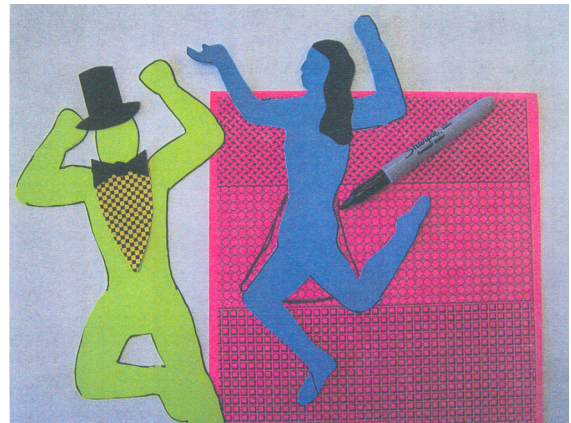
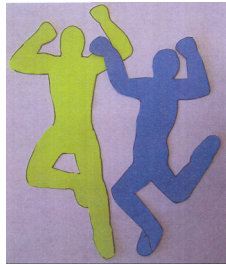
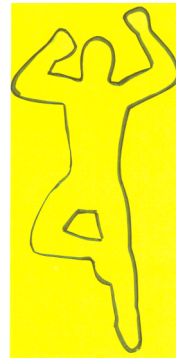
5. Embellish the body:
- Choose clothing colors to contrast with the background painting.
 - Use the cut out figure to shape clothing that fits the figure and the action. Choose some textured or patterned paper for added interest.
 - Add hair and hats or have the people hold props (a ball, umbrella) that fit the action.

6. Glue down the action figures when they are complete.

Title your art and sign your name.

Glue this part under the collage.
Title

Artist



Glue down the action figures when they are complete.

5. Title your art and sign your name.

Title

Name

CLOSE:

ASSESSMENT: Talk about artists as illustrators. The collage could be used as an illustration or cover for a book. Students could write a story and use the collage as an illustration.

Teacher administered assessment tool

DN	OK	UP	Lesson_____ Teacher_____
			Grade_____Date_____ Number of Students_____
			Using the thumbs up, ok, and down technique, ask your students the following questions and record their answers. (K=knowledge, S=skills, C= creativity, A=attitude, E=engagement)
			1.Can you explain what a collage is? (K)
			2.Can you name the painting technique you used for the collage background?(S)
			3.Did you arrange your mannequin into different positions before drawing your person in action? (S,E)
			4.Does your collage resemble the art of Miriam Shapiro? (S,C,A,E)
			5.Did you add your own imaginative touch to your art? (C)
			6.Did you actively listen and follow directions? (A)
			7.Did you do your best during this lesson? (E)

Teacher self-critique

8. My teaching of this lesson:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
needed improvement							was highly successful		

9. What would I do differently next time?

ALIGNMENT:

<p>Alignment of Standards: Art: A1,2,3,4,6,7; B4,5; C4; D6,7 English: C Math: B,E Cultural: A</p>	<p>Alignment of GLE's: Reading: R2.6, R2.7, R2.11 Writing: W2.1</p>
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CREDITS:

Project ARTiculate is supported by the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, the Alaska Arts Education Consortium, and a U.S. Department of Education Development and Dissemination Grant



Glue this part under the collage.

Title: _____

Artist: _____

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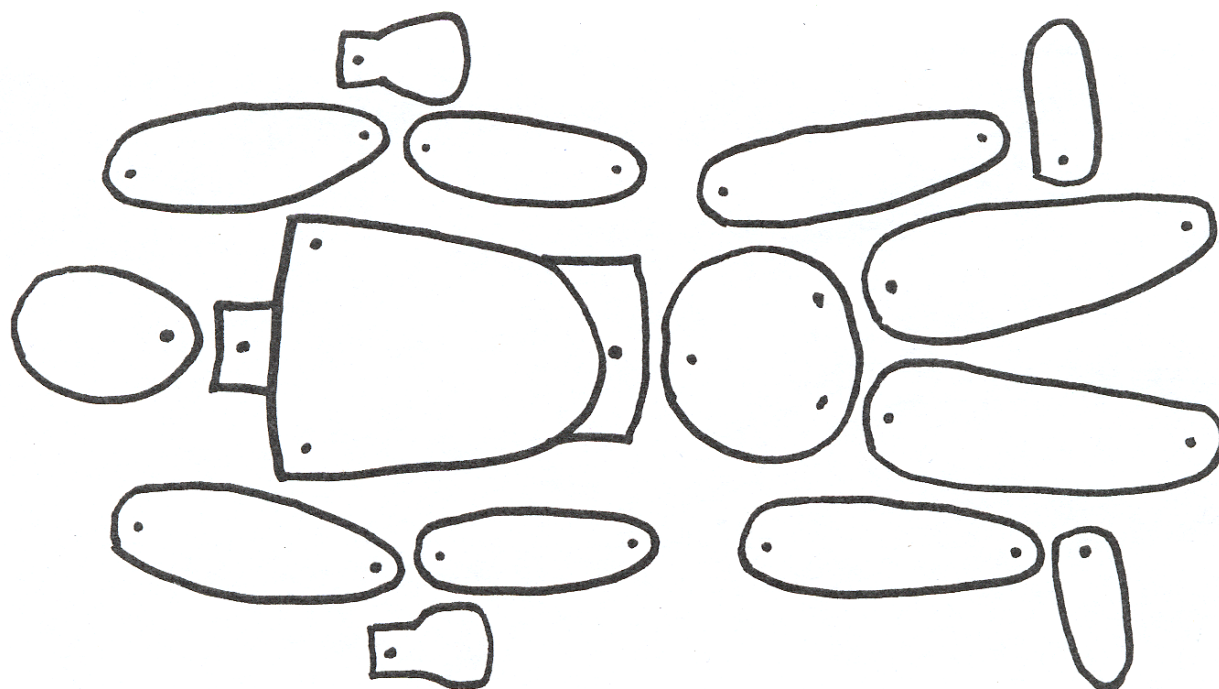
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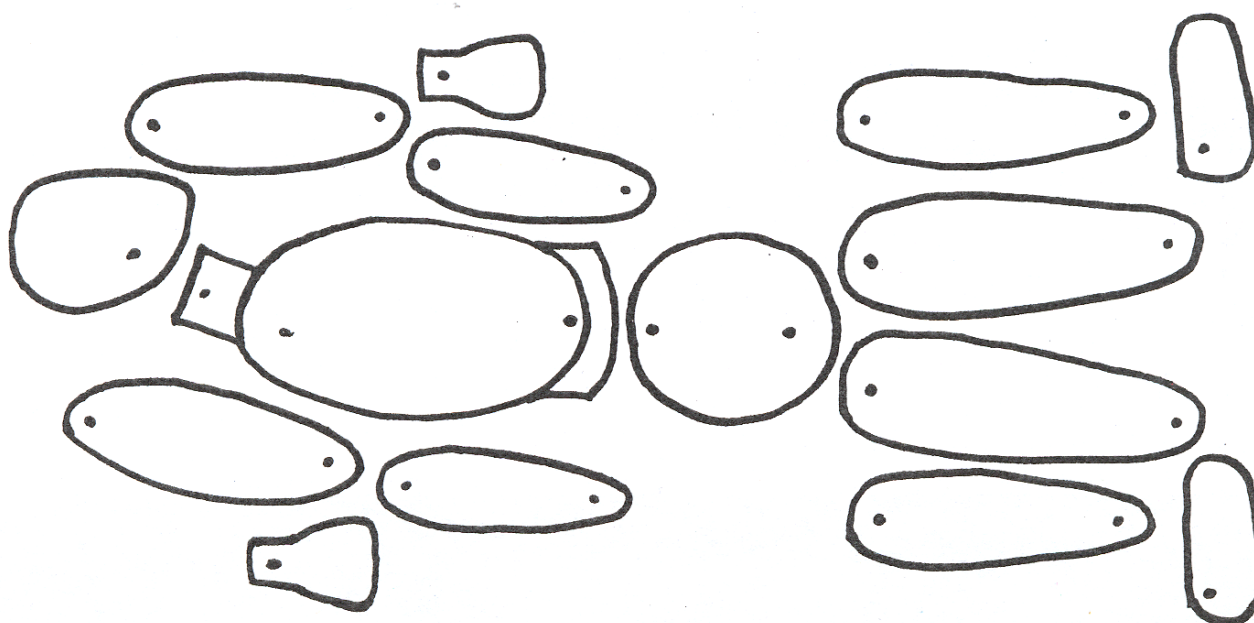
Artist: _____

Mannequins – front and side views

Enlarge to fit on a 9" x 12" construction paper. Punch holes and use brads for moveable parts.



Front View



Side View

Action Figure Collage

The collaged action figures of Miriam Schapiro are studied before students create their own collages. A wet-on-wet painting technique is used to develop an interesting background. Students use mannequins to find an action position before drawing their action person. Cut out patterned paper and other details embellish the collages.



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