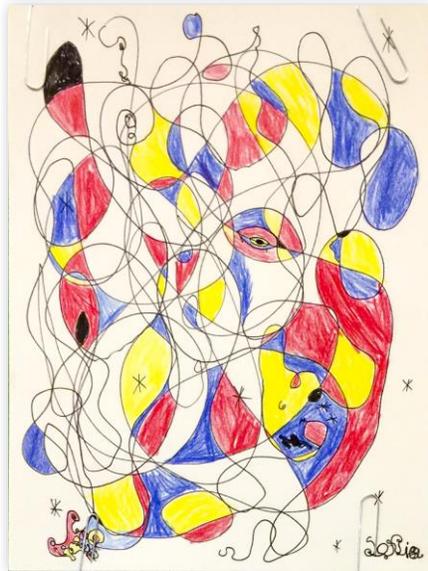


Grade 2 Project: Miró's Automatic Drawing

Element of Art: Line

Objective: to create continuous lines that cross each other to form a pattern, following the practice of automatic drawing as used by Surrealist artists in the early to mid 1900's. Sometimes in art you must learn to go with the flow.

Artistic Influence: Joan Miró's Constellations Series



Elements of Art:

Line

Color is also an important element of this lesson, since only primary colors are used.

Note: We call red, blue & yellow primary colors, because all other colors can be obtained by mixing these.

Materials:

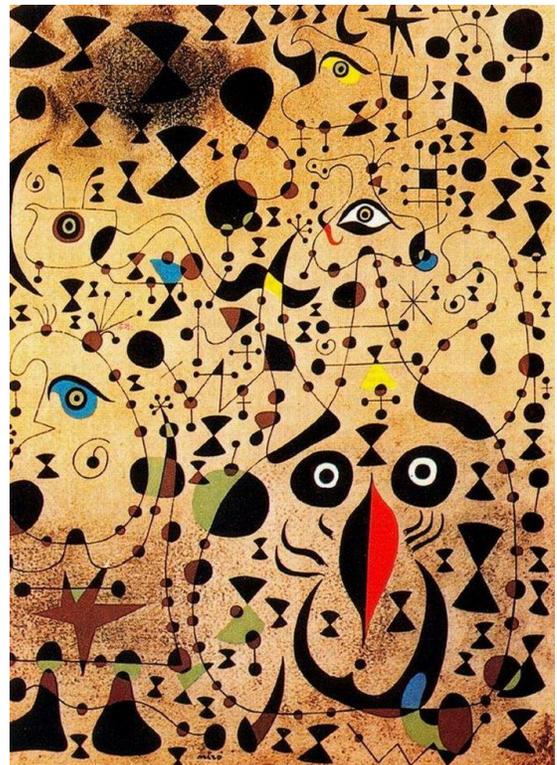
- This lesson can use two different sets of materials.
 - **Black Flair pen + blue yellow and red colored pencils**
 - OR**
 - **Black Sharpie markers + blue, yellow and red Sharpies**
- **White construction paper, although white tagboard or cardstock would be better if using Sharpies.**

Instructions and notes:

1. Present the PowerPoint slide deck, pausing at slide 12.
2. When students are ready to start their automatic drawing, encourage them to relax and close their eyes. Most students seem to enjoy this novel practice of drawing abstraction with their eyes closed. Just have them feel for the edges of their paper before they begin.
3. Encourage them to keep their black pen in contact with the paper at all times until they are done drawing the line.
4. Once students have drawn their line and colored some shapes, have students step back and evaluate their work to see if they would like to add some small details here or there.
5. Make sure that all of the markers are tightly closed when the students finish.
6. Invite students to share their art and talk about the process if time allows.

Joan Miró's Automatic Drawing

The goal of this 2nd grade lesson was to explore ways to make a line and create a bright abstract drawing in cheerful primary colors.



WA State Visual Arts Standard (VA:Cr1.2.2)

Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned about **line** as an element of visual arts. **Line** is defined as the one-dimensional path of a dot through space used by artists to control the viewer's eye movement; a thin mark made by a pencil, pen, or brush.

Catalan artist, Joan Miró's Constellations series was our inspiration for this project. The Constellations series were 23 small paintings on paper, painted by Miró between 1939 and 1941. Miró once said of his method, *"Rather than setting out to paint something, I began painting, and as I paint the picture begins to assert itself, or suggest itself under my brush ... The first stage is free, unconscious."* We applied this method to our project by having students close their eyes to create the first line automatically, without first planning where it would go.

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.