

“Picasso Pop Can Portraits”



Objective: Create recycled art inspired by the abstract portraits of Picasso.

Materials

- Empty soda cans
- 6" x 9" pieces of construction paper
- Colored markers (permanent, water-based)
- Colored Pencils
- Squeezable paint (such as Tulip brand)
- Hot glue gun

Motivation

- Begin by exploring the Cubist works of Pablo Picasso and George Braque. Analyze how Cubist artworks show multiple views of the subject in one artwork as well as challenge conventional art rules such as linear perspective.
- Practice drawing a Picasso-style portrait. [Picasso Head](#) is a fun way to do this!

Step 1: Can Crushing

Have students crush the cans by squeezing them in while bending the tops down. The bottoms of the cans will follow. Step on the cans to flatten them as much as possible. Encourage students to start looking for features in the crushed cans that might resemble all the views in a Picasso-style portrait. The bottom of the can makes a great mouth!

Step 2: Skewed Background

Demonstrate how to draw a one-point perspective interior room on the 6" x 9" paper. Contrast how Picasso's work (e.g. *Dora Maar with Cat*, *Weeping Woman*) uses a skewed perspective in the background.

Add contrasting patterns on the walls and floor by drawing with marker and colored pencil.

Step 3: Puffy Paint Detail

Students can add facial features and details on their crushed cans using permanent markers. They can then go over the details and add others with the squeezable paint.

Cans should dry overnight. Once dry, glue cans to perspective paper backgrounds with hot glue.

Tip: It may be beneficial to demonstrate emphasizing one facial feature in the portrait over the others since the portraits can become overcomplicated quickly due to their small size.