

Introduction

Your student finishes the assignment early, or needs a challenging enrichment activity while the other students finish their work. You don't want to introduce an entirely new topic and you don't have time to research a student project activity. What do you do?

You reach for the *High Interest Learning* series! *High Interest Learning* books are organised into topics that are of interest to young people today. Each book contains reproducible, researched information pages that are fun to read, and extension activities that will engage your students. Internet websites are included for almost every activity to expand your students' abilities to access the Information Super Highway. *Note:* Because of the mutable nature of the Internet, web sites do change. The sites listed in this resource were current at the time of publication.

The *High Interest Learning* series was created to foster learning and stimulate creativity in your students. It also saves you time by providing researched enrichments for your students. They win and you win!

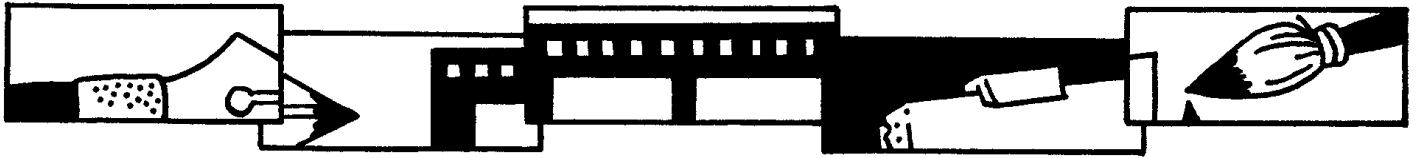
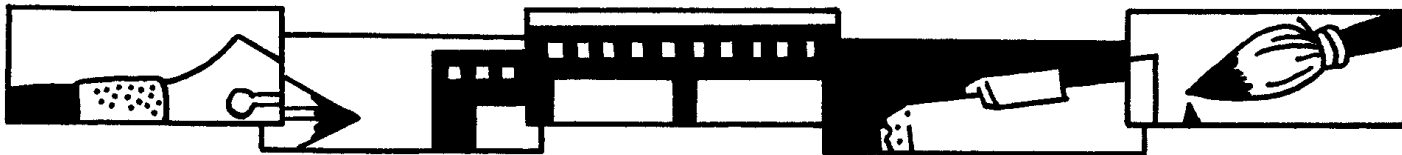


Table of Contents

<i>Arrangement in Gray and Black No. 1:</i>	The Kelly Series	27
<i>The Artist's Mother</i>	Nike of Samothrace	28
<i>Autumn Rhythm #30, 1950</i>	<i>The Bridge from North Shore c. 1932</i> <i>(No.58)</i>	29
<i>The Birth of Venus</i>	<i>The Persistence of Memory</i>	30
<i>Book of Kells</i>	<i>The Star</i>	31
Buddha Statue	<i>The Scream</i>	32
Cave Paintings at Lascaux	<i>Self-Portrait with Camellia</i>	33
Chacmools at Chichén Itzá	<i>Shahnamah (Book of Kings)</i>	34
<i>The Sock Knitter</i>	Sistine Chapel Ceiling	35
<i>Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow</i> <i>1930</i>	Shiva Statue	36
Constantine	<i>Soft Typewriter</i>	37
<i>The Purple Noon's Transparent Might</i> .15	Soldiers of the Imperial Guard	38
<i>Dance, Monster, to My Soft Song!</i> . . .16	The Sphinx	39
<i>Day of the God</i>	The Standard of Ur	40
<i>Discobolus</i>	<i>Starry Night</i>	41
<i>Guernica</i>	Stela of Hammurabi	42
<i>The Human Condition</i>	Stone Statues on Easter Island	43
<i>I and the Village</i>	<i>The Thinker</i>	44
<i>Improvisation No. 30</i>	<i>The Two Fridas</i>	45
King Tutankhamen's Sarcophagus . . .23	<i>Two Hundred Campbell's Soup Cans</i> .46	
<i>The Kiss</i>	<i>WHAAM!</i>	47
<i>Mona Lisa</i>	Websites	48
Nefertiti		



Arrangement in Gray and Black No. 1: The Artist's Mother

by James McNeill Whistler

Something to Know

Whistler painted his famous portrait of his mother in 1871. The portrait in oils was meant to be just what its title indicates: a study of the use of blacks and greys. The only colours used in the portrait are different shades of black, white and grey, as well as skin tones for her face and hands.

The subject of the painting is an older woman sitting in a chair. You see her from her left side. She wears a black dress with long sleeves and the hem of her skirt touches her shoes. Her feet rest on a footstool. She wears an old-fashioned bonnet and lace scarf over her hair, and holds a lace handkerchief in her hands. She is the central figure and focus of the painting, but you also see one picture hanging on the wall to the left and part of another picture hanging on the wall to the right. There is a dark-patterned curtain hanging in the doorway to the left.

Whistler's purpose in painting the picture was not to glorify his mother, but to show that he was a master of line and tone, and to show the use of different shades of a specific colour. He planned his composition carefully with the figure in the centre. The straight lines around her – the picture frames, the line where the wall and floor meet, the edge of the doorway curtain – all serve to frame her image. He also chose to paint her from the side to create the sharp, clean lines of her profile. He purposely painted her wearing a black dress so that the shape of her body would be in contrast to the light-coloured wall, proving that he knew how to use tone to show the differences between light and dark.

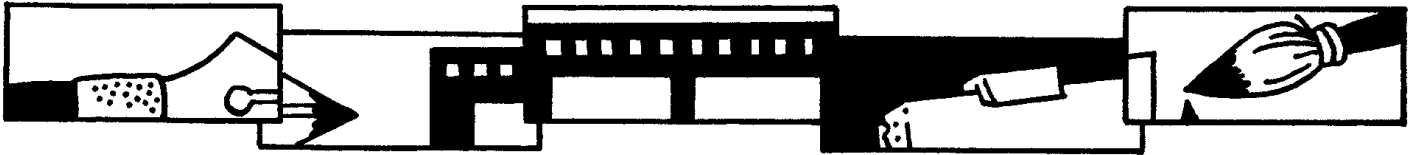
Arrangement in Gray and Black No. 1: The Artist's Mother can be seen on the Internet at <<http://www.abcgallery.com/W/whistler/whistler37.html>>.

Something to Do

- Using a drawing pencil and paper, create a portrait of your mother or an older woman whom you admire.
- Make your own arrangement in black and grey. Using charcoal and rough drawing paper, draw a still-life arrangement. Show contrast between light and dark by using shading in your artwork.
- Create a three-dimensional artwork based on Whistler's painting. Look carefully at all the details in the painting, then recreate it inside a box using a doll and anything else you need to make your recreation accurate.

Something to Think about

You are James McNeill Whistler's mother. People in the art world are proclaiming your son's portrait of you to be a masterpiece. What do you really think of it? Write your opinion in your diary.



Sistine Chapel Ceiling

Something to Know

Renaissance painter Michelangelo designed and painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican in Rome, Italy, from 1508 to 1512.

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is about as long as a football field is wide. It is massive, especially when you realise that Michelangelo painted it while lying on his back, way up in the air. When you look up at the ceiling, it appears that the scenes are inside marble columns and pillars. Michelangelo wanted to give his masterpiece a serious, classical feeling and remind the viewers of ancient Rome with marble pillars dividing the scenes. The ceiling is decorated with nine scenes from the Bible, and the three main sections show the creation of the world, Adam and Eve, and Noah and the great flood. The scenes are surrounded by twelve huge paintings of Old Testament prophets and wise women called sibyls. The men and women painted on the sidelines were the ones who foretold the birth of Jesus Christ, so it is as if they are watching the whole drama. The method of the paintings is known as fresco, which means they were painted on wet plaster so that the paint was absorbed into the wall.

Over the centuries, the ceiling naturally became very dirty as dust and grime floated up in the air and covered the paintings. The ceiling was cleaned for the first time in the 1960s and into the 1970s. It took such a long time because the cleaners had to work slowly and carefully in order not to damage or remove Michelangelo's original paints. After the first cleaning, the colours were so vibrant and different that a full-scale restoration took place from 1981–1989. Art historians believe that the ceiling today looks much like it did soon after Michelangelo painted it almost 500 years ago.

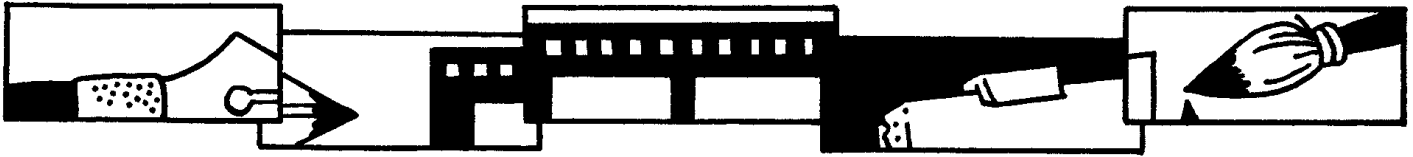
The ceiling may be seen in the Vatican in Rome. Views of the Sistine Chapel can be found on the Internet at <http://sun.science.wayne.edu/~mcogan/Humanities/Sistine/Ceiling>.

Something to Do

- Make your own fresco! Mix up a package of plaster of Paris according to the package instructions. Put a 3-centimetre-thick layer of wet plaster in the bottom of a small rectangular plastic container. Using tempera paints and a brush, create your masterpiece. Remember, you only have about half an hour before the plaster dries and hardens!
- Choose an important event from your life. Illustrate the event by using crayons. After you have drawn and coloured your event, draw marble-like columns around it to create an impressive border.
- Using coloured pencils, draw the design for a mural to be painted on your bedroom ceiling.

Something to Think about

Michelangelo lay flat on his back for four and a half years while he painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Brainstorm a list of ways to help your sore back and keep the paint out of your eyes when you paint a ceiling.



Two Hundred Campbell's Soup Cans

by Andy Warhol

Something to Know

When the pop artist Andy Warhol looked at a can of soup, he saw an artwork. The painting of repeated Campbell's Soup cans was created by Andy Warhol in 1962. *Two Hundred Campbell's Soup Cans* was painted in the traditional red, white, yellow and black colours found on Campbell's Soup labels. In the silk-screened print, the soup cans are stacked on top of each other in rows, just as you would see them in a supermarket. Warhol used many different kinds of soup cans. Warhol purposely smeared the ink on his posters, by not lining up the silk screen images properly, to make the images similar, yet different. If you look carefully at the print, he smeared the word 'soup' under the name of every kind of soup. When he was asked why he chose soup cans for his subject, he said that he 'used to drink it ... the same lunch every day for twenty years, the same thing over and over again ... I liked it'.

Warhol used the technique of silk screening to create identical copies of a subject. He used common objects in his art to show people how much we take everyday things for granted and do not really notice them.

The painting is from the collection of John and Kimiko Powers in New York. *Two Hundred Campbell's Soup Cans* can be found on the Internet at <<http://www.usc.edu/schools/annenberg/asc/projects/comm544/library/images/777.html>>.

Something to Do

- Using only primary-coloured tempera paints, create a painting of a common object you see every day. For example, a bar of soap, a toothbrush or a pencil. Make a series of three in a row in the style of Andy Warhol.
- Andy Warhol lived in New York City. The most famous bumper sticker for that town reads 'I ♥ NY'. Design a bumper sticker to advertise the artwork of Andy Warhol.
- On a strip of paper, design and colour a new label for a can of your favourite kind of soup. Then glue the label onto a tin soup can and display your artwork with your classmates against a wall in your classroom.

Something to Think about

Andy Warhol once said that in the future, everyone will be famous for at least fifteen minutes. Write a paragraph about what you would do to become famous and how you would feel about it.