

Art Appreciation Project, Fall 2011

Stuart Davis (1892 – 1964), an American abstract painter, was considered a forefather of the Pop Art movement. Stuart Davis translated the visual imagery of New York City and the jazz music of the mid-20th Century into iconographic abstract paintings of squiggly lines and flashy colors.

This document describes the material you will need to carry out the Stuart Davis Art Appreciation project in the classroom. All of the materials (except scissors and pencils) can be found in the art locker which is located in the basement of Chatsworth, opposite the music room.

Materials Required

- 12x18 Tag Board (white). Enough for each student in classroom.
- Tempera paint. The large gallon jugs can be carried up to the classroom.
- Paint brushes. Enough for each student.
- Small cups. Approximately 40 cups will be needed. The cups will be used to hold the paint and placed on each table.
- Paper plates to be used for mixing paintings and creating different colors. Enough for each child to have his/her own plate.
- Plastic containers. Enough for each table in the classroom. The containers will hold water for cleaning brushes.
- Colorful construction paper. Approximately 40 sheets per classroom. We recommend that you cut the construction paper in half. Use of construction paper is optional for the students.
- Glue sticks. Ten should be sufficient.
- Scissors. You should be able to use the scissors that are in the classroom.
- Pencils. Use the pencils in the classroom.

How to: The students will compose a piece that reflects them, their environment, and the objects and places in their lives that inspire them and that they love. Think of the painting as a “self-portrait” reflecting their world. The painting can be abstract, using geometric and abstract shapes. Emphasize size, overlapping and balance of color.

Each table should be set up with a piece of tag board per student, a paper plate for each student for mixing paint, cups of several different colors of paint per table, a couple containers of water for each table, a pencil for each child, several pieces of construction paper for optional use, a couple sticks of glue per table, and scissors. (Note: Parent volunteers can be setting up the tables as other volunteers are presenting Stuart Davis’ work.)

Encourage the student to begin by sketching their design with a pencil. Proceed by painting with tempura paints. Encourage the students to fill the canvas with color and objects.

To create a multi-layered, overlapping effect, the student can use cut pieces of colored construction paper. The student may also want to include words or letters, either painted or glued on.