

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

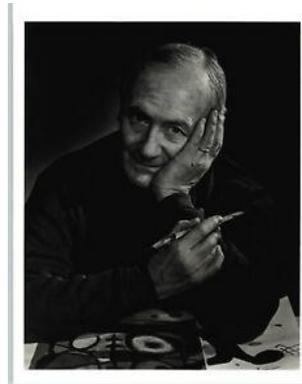
Spotlight on CAM’s Collection

Joan Miro

About the Artist:

“When I stand in front of a canvas, I never know what I’m going to do – and nobody is more surprised than I at what comes out.”

Joan Miró i Ferrà (1893 – 1983) was a Spanish painter, sculptor, and ceramicist born in Barcelona. In his paintings he combined abstract art with Surrealism. Miró painted “dream pictures” and “imaginary landscapes” in which the linear configurations and patches of color look almost as though they were set down randomly. The poet André Breton, the chief spokesman of Surrealism, stated that Miró was “the most Surrealist of us all.” However, Miro never accepted any surrealist doctrine. Rather, his art, like Paul Klee's, seems more connected to modern fantastic art. Miró's aim was to rediscover the sources of human feeling, to create poetry by way of painting, using a vocabulary of signs and symbols, and dream images to express his various themes. In the later part of his career he created a series of small works scattered with symbols of the elements and the cosmos, expressing the happy collaboration of everything creative. A museum dedicated to his work, the Fundació Joan Miró, was established in his native city of Barcelona in 1975, and another, the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, was established in his adoptive city of Palma de Mallorca in 1981.



ART AT HOME – Imagination Landscapes

What You Will Need:

- Large paper to paint and draw on
- Paints (3 or more different colors)
- Paint brushes
- Painter tape
- Markers

Before you begin, look at images of Miro’s work, especially his paintings. Draw inspiration from what you see and remember that Miro was an artist who took pride in not knowing exactly how his work would turn out – he enjoyed the process!

- Step 1 – Before you start working, think about how you can create a place using different shapes and colors, almost like a map to a make-believe world!
- Step 2 – Begin by applying the painter tape in different shapes and patterns to your paper. (You can create shapes that you will paint inside of, and you can simply apply a piece or two as a line to paint on top of so that the ends of the brushstrokes will be what shows.)
- Step 3 – Paint inside the tape shapes and around any tape lines you have created.
- Step 4 – Place the work to the side to dry before the next step.
- Step 5 – Gently remove the tape.
- Step 6 – Using your markers, outline some or all of your shapes. Draw lines that connect the different shapes and colors. Add in new elements to your piece by drawing them in.
- Step 7 – Clean up your work area.

Tips:

- Experiment with creating silly shapes as well as traditional ones. Try out different colors next to each other for fun combinations.
- Think of creative ways to show parts of a landscape (triangle for a mountain, colorful rectangles for buildings, spots of color for water, etc.)
- You don’t need to have your plan firmly decided in your mind as you work – you can make your decisions along the way about how it looks and add to it accordingly.

Questions to Ask One Another:

- Give your work a title and write a short description of what is going on in your artwork.
- Did your work come out how you initially envisioned it, or did it change as you worked?
- How many different shapes did you make? How many colors did you use?

Follow Up Project Suggestion:

- Before you create the project, write a description of an imaginary landscape. Use that description to help you design your work of art.