

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

Spotlight on CAM's Collection

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG

About the Artist:

“I think a painting is more like the real world if it is made out of the real world.”

Milton Ernest "Robert" Rauschenberg (1925 - 2008) was an American painter and graphic artist whose early works anticipated the pop art movement. Rauschenberg is well known for his "combines" of the 1950s, in which non-traditional materials and objects were employed in various combinations. During 1948–50 he studied at Black Mountain College, North Carolina, under the Bauhaus master Josef Albers and at the Art Students League in New York City. Rauschenberg's first paintings in the early 1950s comprised a series of all-white and all-black surfaces underlaid with wrinkled newspaper. In subsequent works he began to explore the possibilities of making art from such objects as Coca-Cola bottles, traffic barricades, and stuffed birds, calling them "combine" paintings. From the late 1950s Rauschenberg experimented with the use of newspaper and magazine photographs in his paintings, devising a process using solvent to transfer images directly onto the canvas. About 1962 he borrowed from Andy Warhol the silk-screen stencil technique for applying photographic images to large expanses of canvas, reinforcing the images and unifying them compositionally with broad strokes of paint reminiscent of Abstract Expressionist brushwork. Among Rauschenberg's preoccupations from the 1970s to the 1990s were lithography and other printmaking techniques. He continued to incorporate imagery from the commercial print media but began to rely more heavily on his own photography.



ART AT HOME – Found Object Collage Painting

What You Will Need:

- Flat Found Objects (part of a cereal box, strip of lace, burlap, etc.)
- Newspapers and Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint (one to three colors)
- Paint Brushes (at least one thin and one thick)
- Large Canvas
- Mod Podge or Spray Sealer (Optional)

Robert Rauschenberg was a master of using found objects in his art to create interesting compositions. Look at images of his collages and mixed media works. Take note of the variety of materials and forms he employs and keep this in mind when gathering your found objects.

- Step 1 – Gather a variety of 2 dimensional found objects that you may want to use in your artwork.
- Step 2 – Cut out images and/or text from magazines and newspapers that you may also want to use in your artwork.
- Step 3 – On top of your canvas, lay out the different materials until you find a design you like.
- Step 4 – Glue your objects down, taking your time to apply pressure when needed to make sure the object is glued down firmly and smoothly.
- Step 5 – Paint in and around your found objects.
- Step 6 – Place your work somewhere safe to dry.
- Step 7 – Outside and with great caution, apply Mod Podge or Spray Sealer to the entire canvas to make it a sturdier finish (be sure to follow the instructions on your finishing material very closely).
- Step 8 – Clean your work area.

Tips:

- Give some thought to the objects you are placing in your collage. How will each piece work together to form the overall composition?
- Take time when gluing each piece down to make sure that everything is securely attached.

Questions for Discussion:

- How did you choose which pieces to use in your collage? How did you decide on their placement?
- Give your collage painting a title. Explain why you chose that name.

Follow Up Project Idea:

Create a 3-dimensional sculpture using found objects!

