

Visual Arts week 13

VISUAL ARTS
10-11years

Expressions from everyday objects

Your task is to build an assemblage (work of art that is made of different things put together), which presents expressions. Material in this work is different kind of familiar objects in your home. The idea is to construct portraits with different expressions and feelings and take a photo of finished work to document it. Afterwards please, put all the objects back in place.

First, you can use the mirror to look at expressions. How do you smile to yourself? And how do you look when you get angry? Pay attention to how the parts of the face look different in different expressions. Are your eyes open or almost closed? Are the eyebrows turning and in which direction? Will the shape of nose change? Mouth, at least! You can also ask other family members to express themselves. What kind of look makes another happy?

Find different items and borrow those for your assemblage. You can search in the toy box, in the kitchen, in school supplies, in the tool box and elsewhere, where parents give you permission. Any material found in the home can be used for this work. Try what it looks like if you put many spoons side by side. What if you put them on top of each other partially or what if each other is upside down?

It doesn't matter even if you have too many items and some are left unused. Better is that you can try different order and combinations. Try and find out the best combination. Depending on what items you choose, the size of your work can be large or small. It is different if the work includes boiler covers than if the work is assembled, for example, from objects found in kitchen drawers.

After the experiments, build the work on a table or floor. Arrange objects carefully. Use your own experiments to think about how to make a happy face. How does the position of the mouth indicate the expression? How do you put your eyes and eyebrows? Move your mouth and eyes in a different position to change the look of your face. Did happy face turn to angry?

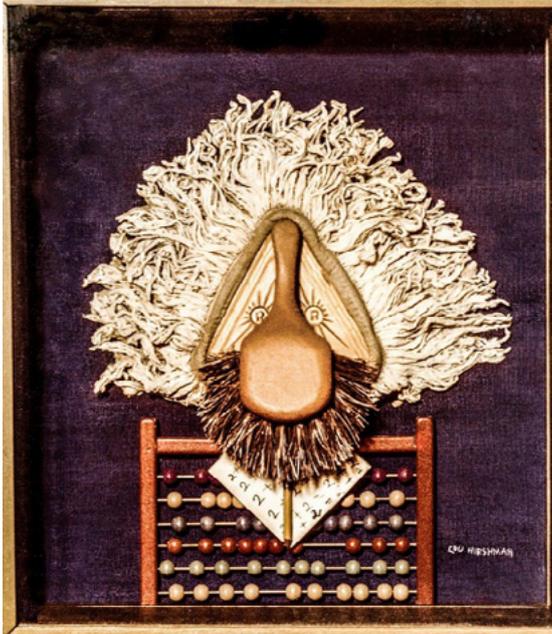
You can build many different characters with different expressions. Also remember the ears and hair. Your character can also have glasses, jewelry, a hat or whatever else you want to add to them. You can also come up with names for the characters. Take a photo or ask a member of your family to photograph all of your assemblages. Then return all the goods to their correct places!

You can check out the photos here and linked photos for more ideas. What materials have the artists used in these works?

Materials



Minttu Hyytiäinen: Portrait made of objects.



[Lou Hirshman: A Caricature of Albert Einstein \(Wikimedia Commons\)](#)

More links:

[A Caricature of Charles Chaplin](#)

[Man Ray: Self-Portrait](#)

What do you need

You'll need various objects from home. A mobile-phone, camera or tablet to document your artwork.

Approaches to learning

You learn to percept everyday objects from a new view-point.

You practise to construct an art work by using ready made objects.

You observe a face and experiment different kind of facial expressions.

You get to know the concept 'assemblage' as a special kind of art work made of objects.

Info - Background

A relief is a sculpture on a flat surface, with shapes either elevated or submerged. The work is made for viewing from the front only.

An assemblage is a work of art that is made of different things put together.

Caricature is a rendered image showing the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way

Louis P. "Lou" Hirshman (1905-1986) was an American artist known for his witty and imaginative use of found objects for caricatures of celebrities

Man Ray (1890-1976) was an American artist. He was a painter, photographer, sculptor, writer and film director.

More about artist in Finland, who are using recycled materials in their work

[recycledart](#)

