

A POSTIVE/NEGATIVE SPIN (SPINNING COLLAGES)

Students will learn about the life and art of artist Félix Vallotton. Two works by Vallotton are part of the Dixon Gallery and Garden's permanent collection. Inspired by the high contrast and positive/negative imagery in Vallotton's work, students will create their own black and white collage.

TN VISUAL ARTS STANDARDS:

3-5 VA.Cr1.A

3-5 VA.Cr2.A

3-5 VA.Cr2.B

MATERIALS

- White Paper
- Black Paper
- Circle Tracer
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brad

INSTRUCTIONS

1. First, will trace and cut a circle on black and white paper.
2. Using their black paper circle, they will fold the paper twice and will cut abstract designs from the sides of the folded paper.
3. Students will unfold the black paper to reveal their symmetrical design. Carefully, students will glue the shapes cut from their black paper onto their white paper, recreating the same composition again but as positive shapes.
4. Using a pencil, students will poke a hole through the middle of both their black and white circles and insert a brad so that the paper can spin.
5. Students will spin their paper circles to create a changing abstract composition.

GRADE LEVEL

3-5



VISUAL ART

In the Classroom:



At Home:



DISCUSSION

About the artist: Félix Vallotton was a Swiss and French artist born in 1865. He was very important to the invention of woodcuts, a process where artists carve an image or design into a block of wood and then make prints of the image. Vallotton became very well known for his black and white woodcuts that showcased a simplistic style. Later in his life Vallotton focused on paintings and loved to paint landscapes entirely from memory and imagination. He struggled with his health and passed away at just age 60. However, during his lifetime he was incredibly prolific and created over 1700 paintings, 200 prints, and hundreds of drawings.

Guiding questions:

Why would an artist prefer to use the printmaking technique as opposed to painting or drawing? What are the benefits? What are the drawbacks?

How does creating an image using only black and white change the mood of an artwork?

Do you feel that Vallotton's work tells a story? If so, what is it about? If not, what was the purpose of creating the work?

LEARNING AT HOME (For virtual students)

- Paper
- Drawing materials

After learning about the life and work of Felix Vallotton, students will create a positive/negative drawing. They will fold their paper in half and draw a simple symmetrical shape that overlaps both sides of their page. On one half of their page, students will fill in their shape with pattern and color the background solid. On the other half, they will fill in their shape with a solid color and fill in their background with pattern.

INSPIRED BY:



Félix Vallotton, Swiss
(1865-1925) The Shower , 1894
(L'Averse) Woodcut print in black
ink on wove paper 4 1/8 x 8 13/16
inches (17 1/4 x 18 1/4 inches)
Museum purchase, 1989.2

EXAMPLES:

In the Classroom



At Home:



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