Delve into art elements and principles of design with Teaching Artist Wendy Mahon. Students will create a thematic mural that relates to any curricular theme. Students help design the mural by submitting images related to the theme and which Wendy uses to create the overall design. Students then work together on a piece of the mural using a variety of potential medium. The medium may include paint, collage put together to create a mosaic effect, crayons, recycle materials such as magazines, buttons, fabric and many other materials. The students follow guidelines that allow for personal creative choices. When all pieces of the mural are complete they are joined together to reveal one cohesive image full of patterns, words, textures within the image and theme. Wendy teaches students to appreciate community and respect diverse points of view. Depending upon the project, additional prep time and fees may be necessary.

Objectives

1. **Use** different materials to produce art.
2. **Appreciate** the value of working together to produce a piece of art.
3. **Collaborate** with one another towards a common goal.
Wendy Mahon educates and enlightens audiences utilizing a variety of visual arts projects, workshops and materials. She applies her engaging energetic style to her workshops in mask, simple costumes, batik and murals. She shares her background as a native of Trinidad and Tobago with its vibrant colors, multicultural influences and carnival atmosphere. Wendy has worked extensively on Cleveland Museum of Art projects, including the Parade the Circle Celebration and Chalk Festival. She has presented numerous workshops to both adults and children in the US and globally. Wendy received her B.A. in Scientific Illustration from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Vocabulary

Mural: Usually a large painting that is done directly on or attached to the surface of a wall
Repeat pattern: An arrangement of repeated decorative motifs
Collaboration: The act of working with another or others on a joint project
Collage: A work of art that is made by attaching pieces of different materials to a flat surface
Recycle: To treat or process (used or waste materials) so as to make suitable for reuse.

About Wendy Mahon

Show students pictures in books and on the internet of different murals and works of muralists.
Discuss with students if they have ever seen any murals in their neighborhood or home environment.
Discuss the value of murals in a community

Has creating a mural changed the students understanding of the murals they see in their community? If so, how?
Do different murals mean different things?
Ask students if they have become aware of more murals in their community.

Before the Program

After the Program

Resources

Diego Rivera, Artist and Muralist by Megan Schoeneberger
DVD: Painting the Town: The Illusionistic Murals of Richard Haas
Murals, Walls that Sing by George Ancona

About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.