

ARTIST STUDY ART JOURNAL: Drawing, Glue line, Painting

NORVAL MORRISSEAU : "X-RAY" ART

Norval Morrisseau is a well known Aboriginal artist who developed an art style called the Woodlands Style. The style uses bright colors and strong, flowing lines. The pictures show real and imaginary animals, people and legends. The Woodlands style of art is used by many First Nations artists. Each artist adds their own special interpretation to the style.

Morrisseau was born in 1930 on the Sand Point Lake Reserve north of Thunder Bay in Ontario Canada. He was raised by his Grandparents and through them learned traditional Ojibwa customs, values and beliefs. His Grandfather gave him his "mission". It was to use art to share important messages about Ojibwa culture.

When he was a young man, Morrisseau painted and drew his ideas on birch bark and brown paper bags. He painted visions which were uniquely his own. Later, he traveled widely to First Nations communities in Canada where he met with knowledgeable elders, both to learn from them and to teach. He taught by painting, as well as writing.

Many of Morrisseau's works are done in the "X-ray" style. This approach to art-making is common to Aboriginal people throughout North America. The style shows the close connection between Aboriginal culture and the natural world. "X-ray" art is a form of expression that looks inside animals and humans. The ancient belief was that the artist was looking into their souls.

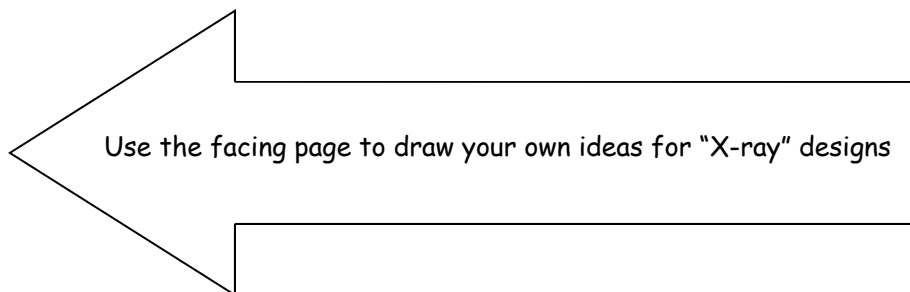
"X-ray" art works can also show organs, especially the heart and brain, bones and blood vessels. The blood vessels and the heart represent life and the brain represents the soul. Many colors are used that are symbolic and have special meaning to Native people. The colours red, white, black and yellow represent the four races. Blue may also symbolize birth. Many works of art tell a story or symbolize some aspect of Aboriginal culture.

Name _____
Grade _____ Room _____

"X-ray" drawings : INSIDES

Look at pictures by Norval Morriseau . What shapes, lines or patterns do you see INSIDE the different animal and human characters? What do you think the designs mean?

Draw one of Morriseau's x-ray designs that uses line:	Think of three descriptive words for the lines in the design :
	What does the design remind you of ?
Draw one of Morriseau's x-ray designs that uses shapes:	Think of three descriptive words for the shapes in the design :
	What does the design remind you of ?
Draw one of Morriseau's x-ray designs that uses patterns:	Think of three descriptive words for the patterns in the design :
	What does the design remind you of ?



Drawing with lines : insides and outsides

- Make a plan for a large picture of one or more animal or human figures. Make sure to include an "X-ray" style inside.
- Use a pencil to draw your final idea on good quality art paper. First draw the outlines of the figures. Then add designs and symbols to the insides of the figures. Keep your drawing big and bold, for you will be covering your pencil lines with thicker black lines.
- Go over your pencil lines with permanent black lines. Create a variety of lines, like thick and thin, wavy and straight. To draw black lines, you can use:
 - Permanent black markers
 - Black glue (mix black paint with white school glue & put it in a squeezey bottle or plastic bag)
 - A thin brush with thin acrylic paint or India ink

Painting with colors

- While your black lines are drying, think about a color scheme for your art work:

COLOR CONTRASTS are color combinations that use opposites,

HOT and COLD colors together, like orange and blue

COMPLIMENTARY colors together, like green and red, or violet and yellow.

BRIGHT, pure colors together with DULL, muddy colors

COLOR BLENDS are colors that are similar to each other

ANALOGOUS colors are found beside each other on the color wheel, like red, red-orange and orange .

MONOCHROMATIC colors are all the same hue, like light, medium and dark green.

TINTED COLORS are colors mixed with white to make them light, or pastel like.

SHADED COLORS are colors mixed with black to make them dark and shady.

FAVORITE COLORS : These are colors used together with only one rule: You like the way they look!

- Use a piece of scrap art paper to experiment with some different materials and color combinations:

Liquid Watercolors and salt	Pan Watercolors
Block tempera paint	Chalk pastels
Acrylic paints	Oil pastels
- Choose the best color scheme and materials to finish your art work.

*TEACHERS: Insert or staple blank pages into the centre fold of this booklet to create an art and idea journal.
-Find Morrisseau visuals at http://www.eastudiosjasper.com/by_artist/woodlands_ojibway.html
-How did this journal help your children learn? Do you have any suggestions for improvements or extensions for this activity? Please send feedback to lkuiper@wsd1.org Thanks!*