

Elementary Art Week 2

Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10

Hello Artists,

Before you begin, I have an interesting work of art for you to examine. Do you think you could create underwater art? This artist is! Check out [this video](#) of a sculptor who is creating work meant to be in the water and to help build coral reefs. What an interesting idea!

This week, I have two art challenges for you:

For Challenge #1: Keep a list of objects you've sketched. At the end of the week please email me a list of the objects you've sketched and indicate which object drawing turned out to be your favorite.

For Challenge # 2: Please choose **1 or 2** of these assignments and try pursuing a project of your choice. Your choices will depend on the materials you have available at home (and your imagination, of course!). At the end of the week, please email me a picture of your project or projects at m.skor@aidanschool.org.

I look forward to seeing the results of your creativity!

Sincerely,

Ms. Skor

Challenge 1: Sketching

All art begins with looking! Every day this week I want you to find one object in your house (or outside of it - it could be a leaf, for example) and spend 5-10 minutes sketching that object. Observe your object closely, and sketch slowly. Where does it have curved lines, where are the lines straight? Some of you have your sketchbooks at home, but if you don't just find anything to draw on.

Keep a list of objects you've sketched. At the end of the week please email me your list and indicate which object drawing turned out to be your favorite.

Challenge 2: Try out a creative career

There are many types of jobs that involve designing, creating, innovating and making art. What all these careers have in common is that they require you to observe the world closely, and then create something new to put into the world in a creative way. Hopefully these creations make the world a bit better and a bit more interesting, and bring joy and inspire other people!

This week please choose **1 or 2** of these assignments and try pursuing a project of your choice. Your choices will depend on the materials you have available at home (and your imagination, of course!). At the end of the week, please email me a picture of your project or projects at m.skor@aidanschool.org.

1. **Be a portraitist:** Portraitists create works of art that depict specific people. Create a drawing or painting (or it could be another medium) of someone in your family, yourself, or a person you admire (it could be an animal portrait too - maybe of your pet?) You could look at a live model, or in the mirror if you're drawing yourself or at a photograph.
2. **Be a painter:** Decide what you want your subject to be and create a beautiful painting. Plan and sketch what you are going to paint first. I also always keep a scrap of paper or something with me as I paint to try out different techniques before I paint them on my final picture.
3. **Be an architect:** Design a building and then either draw a blueprint of your building (a plan showing where everything will be) or a drawing of what the outside of your building looks like or create a three dimensional model of your building. It could be with building blocks, legos, things around the house (a fort?). What type of building will it be? A house, an apartment building, a museum, a school? Take a picture of your structure to share with Ms. Skor.
4. **Be a typographer:** Typographers design type, or lettering, for words that appear in signs, books, on buildings, everywhere you see signs and words! Create a sign with interesting lettering. It could be your name, labels for the rooms in your house, a sign for your imaginary business, or a poster for your room, it just has to be a work of art that uses words in an interesting way.
5. **Be a toy or game designer:** Cas Holman is the toy designer that invented the big blue blocks we play with at school. She also designs playgrounds. She designs toys for kids to experiment and build with, doesn't that sound like a cool job! Design a new toy or board game and make a prototype (or draw your prototype) You could also make a design for a playground and build a model or sketch out your design. If you need some homemade clay to make game pieces see the recipe below in number 8.

Bonus: for some quick inspiration of a toy you can make, here is a video that shows you how to make a flip toy that makes an optical illusion: [How to make a thaumatrope](#)

6. **Be a costume designer:** Costume designers sketch their ideas before they make the clothes. Sketch some designs for your own collection of costumes or uniforms. It could be for a play, or clothes you think people will wear in the future, new types of armor and uniforms for the army, costumes for a movie or story idea you have. You could cut out your designs for paper puppets or make some real clothes for figurines you have at home too! You could also make costumes for yourself - make an actual crown or hat to wear, or some bracelets, etc.

Here's a video that shows you how to make fancy cuffs to wear like the ones you might see in an old painting: [How to make cuffs](#)

7. **Be a photographer:** If you have access to a camera (or a phone with a camera) that you can use for this project you can experiment with making a portfolio of photographs around the same subject or theme. For example all pictures of trees, or all pictures of your toys, or body parts, or portraits. Photographers look a lot before they actually take a picture. Experiment with looking at your subject in a new or interesting way - from above, from below, really close up, etc. Find the most interesting and unusual way to photograph your subjects. Edit your collection and decide on the 5 best images to be your final portfolio. What makes those 5 so cool?
8. **Be a sculptor:** Sculptors create three dimensional art. This is quite a challenge, especially at home, but you can be creative with your materials. You can even use just sticks and string to make a sculpture! You can also make sculptures out of folded paper (like origami!). Cardboard and other containers you find in the recycling are great for sculptures too. If you have extra flour in the house and you want to use homemade clay you can use that as your material.

Homemade clay recipe: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Mix together well and add more water or flour if you need to to get the right consistency.

Or if you have an extra bar of soap, here is a video that shows how to make a soap carving: [Soap carving video](#)

9. **Be an illustrator:** Illustrations help tell stories. When you read a book with illustrations, the illustrations tell you many things about the story that the words do not. Illustrate your own story, book, poem, comic strip, or graphic novel. You can also choose a favorite poem or story that you like to read and create your own illustrations for it.

If you have an extra post it note pad or a bunch of printer paper you can cut and put together you can try making a flip book, which creates a “moving picture” (the first animated cartoons): [How to make a flip book](#)

- 10. Be a textile artist:** Do you love to knit or sew or make things with fabric, thread or other textiles? If you have them at home you can make something with textile materials. You can crochet or sew a design on a piece of fabric, for example, or even weave on a homemade loom.

Here is a video that shows you how to make your own homemade cardboard loom so you can weave at home: [How to make a loom](#)

- 11. Be a collage artist:** Lois Ehlert is a collage artist who writes and illustrates books, like Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Sometimes she uses paper but she also uses other things like leaves and things she finds outside, fabric, anything she can find! Collage is a really fun type of art that lets you choose all different types of materials to put together into one piece of art. Look for and gather things you want to use to make a collage and then put your collection of things together in an interesting way. It can make a picture of something - like a face or a landscape, or just be an interesting abstract design.