



DEGRAZIA ART PROJECT

GRADES: 1-3

CLASS TIME: 60 MINUTES

Materials: 8x10 $\frac{1}{2}$ white paper (OWY supplies free)

Oil Pastels

Crayons

Watercolors

Paint brushes

Black Sharpie marker

Ted DeGrazia was a famous artist who was born on the small mining town of Morenci, Arizona. He lived in Mexico for part of his life, and studied with Diego Rivera. His art finally became popular in the 1960s but in 1976 he burned over 100 of his paintings in protest of inheritance tax laws. DeGrazia based his work on Impressionism, and did not draw features on adult faces unless they were religious figures. He did draw very simple features on the faces of children. He used bold vibrant colors that you would expect in the art of Mexico. When you observe his work you see that many of the people were drawn out of geometric shapes; ei: a circle for a head, an oval for a sombrero, a triangle for a shirt or dress, and a rectangle for pants.

This lesson will be a great way for children to practice drawing various shapes and different ways of associating shapes with everyday items.

- 1) Demonstrate drawing shapes on a chalkboard. Have the children start with drawing a circle the size of a quarter in pencil. Directly under the circle, draw a slanted triangle for a shirt and a vertical rectangle for the pants for a boy picture, for a girl picture draw a large triangle under the quarter sized circle, and a smaller triangle on each side of the larger triangle for arms.
- 2) Black pastels can then be distributed. Have the children draw straight sticks around the circle pointing down. This will be the hair.
- 3) Have the children then draw an oval around the head. This will be a sombrero. Have the children then color the sombrero yellow.
- 4) Encourage the children to use bright, bold colors. Have the kids pick 3 of their favorite colors and have them draw 3 circles to represent balloons. They should then color in the face with a flesh tone pastel. The clothes should also be colored in again using bright bold colors.
- 5) Have the children then take a green crayon and color the bottom of the picture green for the grass.
- 6) Distribute blue water colors, and have the kids then fill in the rest of the picture for the sky and remaining back ground.
- 7) As a finishing touch, use a fine tip black Sharpie marker and have the kids draw two dots for eyes and a dot for a mouth. Draw strings in black marker, from the bottom of the balloons to the hands of children in the drawing.

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