

3rd Grade: October : Paper Collage
Lesson 1: Self-Portrait

Objective: To create a self portrait collage using paper, scissors and markers

Technique: Paper collage

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

NOTE: Bring the “Collage Paper” bin to this lesson

9 x 12 sheet green paper for background

9 x 12 sheet of skin-tone paper (students select paper based on their coloring)

9 x 12 (full or half) sheet hair color paper

Small pieces of white, pink, & red paper (for eyes & mouth) Additional collage paper scraps as needed

Pencil

Markers, black & neutrals (can be shared by several students) Glue

Scissors

Visuals:

The Purple Robe, Henri Matisse

Sample artwork

Demo visuals for drawing a face

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Matisse was born in France in 1869. He was studying to be a lawyer when he became very ill, and had to stay in bed. His mother gave him paints & brushes, and he found “a kind of paradise” as he described it, and made a decision to become a painter. He painted, using bold, bright, and unusual colors. Show *The Purple Robe*, Henri Matisse. He was also known for trying a new style of art, called collage; painting paper, then cutting it out and pasting it onto the painting. Today you will create a collage of your own design. Show sample artwork.

In Matisse’s older years he was too weak to stand and paint so he spent more time cutting paper and creating collaged works. He found new ways to continue to be an artist in spite of his bad health and physical limitations.

Working from larger shapes to smaller shapes, encourage your artists to use cut shapes to add detail and layered pattern as much as possible.

As time allows, cut a nose shape out of the same skin toned paper to build the face. Insert a second piece of paper under the nose shape to create a shadow line and to separate it from the face shape. Use the hair colored paper to cut simple eye brow shapes and even additional secondary hair shapes to build up the main hair shape. For example, a second layer for the bangs or curving “puzzle piece” shapes for longer hair, etc. Consider cutting the head and neck apart at the chin and adding one or two layers of the same colored paper under the head/chin to create depth.

Even eyelashes can be cut from paper much like the eye shapes were cut from the folded white paper. Use the eye shape as a template to start the eyelash shape by tracing the top of the white eye curve on a similar sized folded piece of hair-colored paper. Next, draw a (fringed) upper edge to the eyelash shape and cut two at once, just like the eye shapes were cut.

Inspired by Mr. Matisse's paintings, black outline shapes can be layered over/around the hair shapes or used to define the clothing details. Use marker as little as possible to maintain the character of a paper collage inspired by Mr. Matisse.

1. Plan and Cut The Head (15 min)

- Distribute Paper
- **Discuss:** How to draw a head: Face (shape: round, oval, narrow, wide); neck and shoulders (length, width); ears (relation to eyes, half-way down head); hair (covers top of head and parts of face).
- **Show Visual:** Drawing a Head (use document camera if available)
- **Draw & Cut Head:**
- With a pencil, make a large "O" on skin-tone paper; follow the shape of the face
- Add neck, shoulders and ears
- Add light pencil dots, show placement of features: Eyes (almost half way between the top of the head and the bottom of the chin— not on the forehead); nose (half way between eyeline and the bottom of the chin); and mouth (half way between nose and the bottom of the chin)
- Cut out head, going around neck and ears

2. Hair & Shirt (10 min)

- **Discuss Hair:** Length, texture, part, bangs, style, etc.
- **Draw & Cut Hair :**
 - Hair below ears: Use full sheet hair-colored paper, trace outline of cut-out head onto paper
 - Hair above ears: Use half-sheet hair colored paper trace outline of cut-out head from ears up, onto paper
 - With pencil draw hair on hair-colored paper: Around face and forehead, length, style, fullness, part, bangs, how it covers features
 - Cut out hair
- **Draw & Cut Shirt:**
 - On colored scrap paper of choice, trace outline of neck and shoulders to make shirt (Tip: Shirt can have a v-neck, scoop neck, collar, etc.)
 - Cut out shirt

3. Eyes & Mouth (10 min)

- **Discuss Eyes & Mouth:** Details of eyes (pupil--the inside dot; iris--the color around the pupil; eyelids, eyelashes, eyebrows, etc.). Eye and mouth shapes (open, circle, oval, curving up/down, straight, sideways, etc.).
- **Show Visuals:** Drawing the Eyes, Drawing a Mouth (use document camera if available)
- **Draw & Cut Eyes & Mouth:**
 - Fold a small piece of white paper in half, and draw the shape of the eye (paying attention to size and shape: almond, oval, curvature)
 - On a small piece of lip colored paper, draw mouth (pay attention to curve, size and expression)
 - Cut out eyes and mouth

4. Complete and Share (25 min)

- **Glue & Assemble:** With all pieces of portrait cut out, glue on background paper in the following order: skin-tone head, hair, shirt, eyes (on dots), mouth (on dot). (Tip: Hair can be adjusted to fit face by cutting in half to make a hairline, or part. Overlap and adjust to frame face and then glue down.)
- **Draw Detail (with markers):**
- **Show Visual:** Drawing a Nose (use document camera if available)
 - Add eye details (eyelids, pupil dot, iris color, eyelashes,eyebrows)
 - Using a skin-tone marker, add nose (use dot for placement, show length and curvature); draw chin (over pencil line)
- **Add Finishing Touches:**
 - Add extra details (using scrap paper cut-outs for shirt designs and accessories)
 - Sign name
 - Give a title
 - Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Cap markers & glue, collect scissors, organize paper (keep usable scraps in clear "collage paper" bin, toss remnants), pack supplies

Return all materials to bin

Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



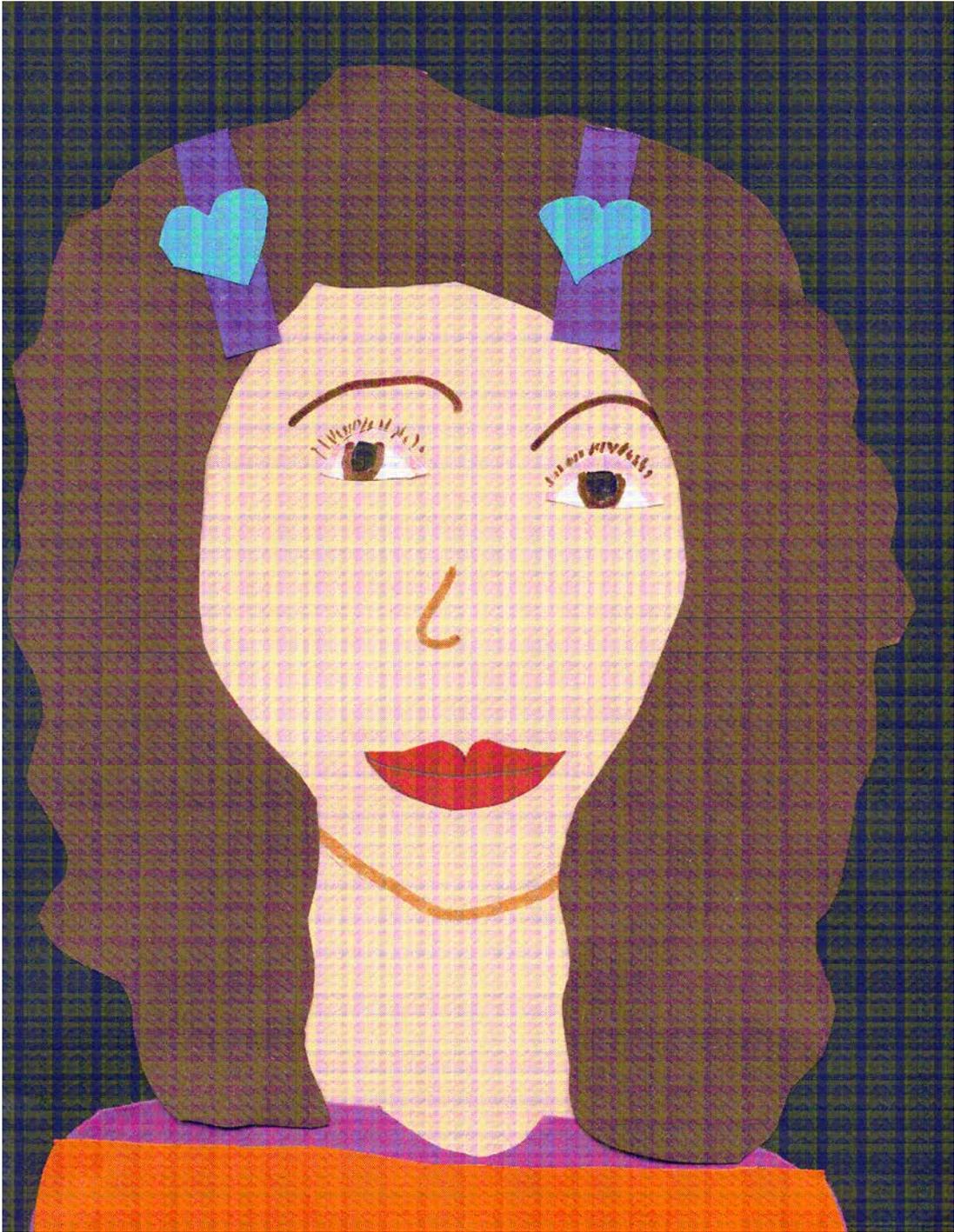
The Purple Robe, Henri Matisse



Mr. Matisse in his Studio



**Another Matisse portrait
A good example of line detail**



Sample artwork: Audrey Self Portrait