4th Grade: February
Lesson 4: Molas
Paper Collage

Objective: To create a mola using paper and scissors

Technique: Paper collage

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)
>   9" x 12" sheet black paper for background
>   9" x 12" construction paper in assorted colors
>   Paper scraps, various sizes & colors (shared by several students)
>   Pencil
>   Glue
>   Scissors

Visuals:
>   Pictures of Molas
>   Sample artwork

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)
Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

"Mola" means blouse and consists of a number of different colored pieces of cloth, laid one on top of the other, then cut into designs and sewn using small stitches. They have been attributed to the Kuna Indians of Panama. Mola motifs come from a variety of sources. Usually these motifs come from everyday life, observance of nature in all forms. Some designs come from legends, dreams, fantasies or purely imaginative thoughts. They can be abstract or geometric, as well as an animal motif. Show pictures of Molas. Today you will create a mola of your own design. Show sample artwork.

1. Plan (5 min)
    - **Discuss:** Mola images often depict types of animals, show symmetry, and have brightly-colored layers.
    - **Subject**: Depicts real or imaginary animal as main image. Animal has a bold, mask-like quality
    - **Symmetry:** Animal image shown on both sides, and are identical. Pattern and design accents show symmetry and visual rhythm (patterns of repeated shapes)
    - **Layering:** Shows texture, color vibration (contrasting effect of colors) and depth (space arrangement, including negative space)

2. Draw & Cut (20 min)
- **Discuss:** Decide on real or imaginary animal to depict; size of image (two should fit on page); type of symmetry (horizontal, angled or vertical); and colors (at least 4 bright colors) to layer. Animal image will be layered on accent colors.
- **Animal Image:**
  - Fold piece of colored paper in half
  - Draw outline of animal on folded paper; <u>leave a thumb-length (2 inch) border around image</u>
  - Cut out animal
  - Place cut-out animal on next color of folded paper; trace a slightly larger version of animal
  - Cut-out larger version of animal
  - Repeat steps (d & e) for next two colors, each time making the animal larger
  - Place layered (small to large) animals on background paper (symmetrically)
- **Supporting Images:**
  - Use scrap paper to add design elements
  - Cut each element twice (folded paper)
  - Place symmetrically around animal (supporting images may also be layered)

3. Complete and Share (35 min)
- **Discuss:** Check designs for balance, colors and symmetry.
- **Assemble Mola:** Work from small cut-out shapes to larger, gluing each piece to the next to show layers of colors
  - Glue animals to background paper
  - Glue supporting details to background paper
  - Sign name
  - Give a title
  - Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)
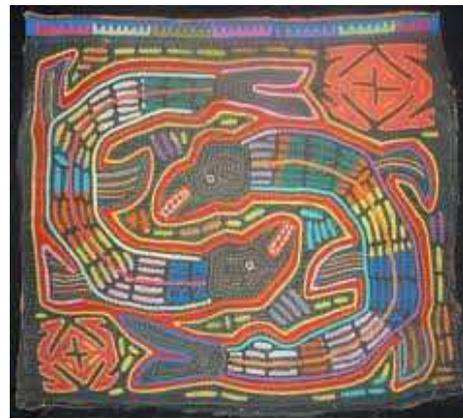   Close the lesson, clean up the classroom
   Cap markers & glue, collect scissors, organize paper (keep usable scraps, toss remnants), pack supplies
   Return all materials to bin
   Return all materials to the art closet
   Ask teacher where to store artwork
   Arrange time with teacher to display artwork

Pictures of Molas

Sample artwork: Adam Mola