

Masterpiece: Flowers, Italy

Artist: Joseph Stella

Concept: Mixed Media Artwork - Crayon Resist

Lesson: Flowery Garden

Objectives:

- Identify repeated shapes, color and subject matter
- Discuss composition, balance and rhythm in the artwork.
- Experiment with crayon-resist technique to make a garden drawing.

Vocabulary: Symmetry, Balance, Rhythm, color, shape.

Materials:

- * 8" x 11" white construction paper
- * 9" x 12" colored construction paper for framing
- * Crayons
- * Watered-down blue tempera paint
- * Paint brushes
- * Paper towels
- * Plastic cups for water

**** Please Note ****

Pre-mount artist's bio to back of 9" x 12" colored construction paper.

**** Troubleshooting Thoughts ****

Do not give students paint until they are ready and have completed their crayon picture. Use a large enough brush so that it does not take all day to cover the paper with blue paint.

Process:

1. Give each student one sheet of 8" x 11" white paper.
2. Ask the students to draw flowers, insects, and birds with crayons - or anything they might see in a garden. Make sure they press hard on their crayons to give the lines some thickness so that they will show up in the next step.
3. Once they are ready, give each student a paintbrush and watered-down blue tempera paint.
4. Make sure they cover their entire paper lightly with the paint provided. The crayon should show through the blue.
5. Have them sign and title their artwork if possible.
6. Let Dry. Mount to 9" x 12" paper, then hang outside classroom.

KINDERGARTEN—PROJECT #3

Artist: Joseph Stella

Masterpiece: "Flowers, Italy"

Lesson: Crayon-Resist

Project Sample:



Art Masterpiece Joseph Stella (1877-1946)

Today Art Masterpiece was presented in your child's classroom. We discussed the artist, Joseph Stella, who is known for his American Futurist paintings, and explored his work, *"Flowers, Italy"*. We discussed the terms "abstraction" and "symmetry". Your child used his/her creativity and imagination to produce his/her own masterpiece inspired by this painting. Please take the time to ask your child what he/she learned about Joseph Stella.



PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Art Masterpiece Joseph Stella (1877-1946)

Today Art Masterpiece was presented in your child's classroom. We discussed the artist, Joseph Stella, who is known for his American Futurist paintings, and explored his work, *"Flowers, Italy"*. We discussed the terms "abstraction" and "symmetry". Your child used his/her creativity and imagination to produce his/her own masterpiece inspired by this painting. Please take the time to ask your child what he/she learned about Joseph Stella.



PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Art Masterpiece Joseph Stella (1877-1946)

Today Art Masterpiece was presented in your child's classroom. We discussed the artist, Joseph Stella, who is known for his American Futurist paintings, and explored his work, *"Flowers, Italy"*. We discussed the terms "abstraction" and "symmetry". Your child used his/her creativity and imagination to produce his/her own masterpiece inspired by this painting. Please take the time to ask your child what he/she learned about Joseph Stella.



PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Joseph Stella (1877-1946)

Joseph Stella was born in a small mountain village near Naples, Italy on June 13, 1877. His father and brothers immigrated to the United States, so at age eighteen, Stella joined them in New York City. As a youth, Stella displayed a natural ability to draw. After briefly studying medicine and pharmacology, he returned to art and studied at the Art Students League in 1897 and later at the New York School of Art. Soon, Stella was receiving payment for his drawings of immigrants, miners and steel workers. In 1909, he returned to Europe and was exposed to the influential modern art of the Cubists and Futurists. In 1911, Stella saw a Paris exhibition of futurists whose painting style expressed modern technological phenomena of motion, speed and light through fractured images, shapes and patterns. Stella excitedly pioneered Futurism in America. His most famous work, *The Brooklyn Bridge*, is painted in this style. During his life, Stella traveled extensively to Paris, Naples, Venice, North Africa and Barbados, always returning to New York City, which he considered his home.

Joseph Stella is most known for his American Futurist paintings and his interpretations of modern twentieth-century life. In his quest for artistic freedom however, he did not limit himself to just one style of expression. The artist experimented with several artistic styles, including Realism, Abstraction and Surrealism. He often mixed media and painted in different manners simultaneously. His strong, independent spirit kept him from joining any group or movement, and Stella wrote that "the first need of the artist is absolute freedom, freedom from schools, from advisors, from critics, and from the so-called friends." He believed that artists have only one mission, "to pour out their joy of living."