

Exploring Series and Media

A Lesson based on the works of art in

Jim Dine, Some Drawings

At the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University

April 7-June 18, 2006

This exhibition of nearly 80 works on paper, the majority from private collections, illustrates the range and mastery of Jim Dine's draftsmanship over more than four decades. Early tool collage drawings are shown alongside powerful portrait and figure studies drawn in a variety of media. In recent years, Dine has created large painterly pastels executed with a bravura that places them somewhere between painting and drawing.

Goals of this Lesson:

1. To examine how an artist uses a common shape to convey different meanings.
2. To realize that color, shape, and medium help to convey the meanings.
3. To explore materials and objects to create the own series.

Illinois Learning Standards fulfilled:

Fine Arts

State Goal 25: Know the language of arts.

State Goal 26: Through creating and performing, understand how works of art are produced.

<p><u>Age Level:</u> Elementary and Middle School</p> <p><u>Estimated Time:</u> 75 minutes (can occur over several class periods)</p> <p><u>Specific Topic:</u> Rendering Series in different media</p> <p><u>Subtopic:</u> Experimenting with color theory.</p>
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Key Concepts:

- The use of ordinary shapes to create art
- Interpreting the use of color
- Seeing progress/differences through a series
- Exploring media

Objectives of this lesson:

1. Students will learn how to recognize series.
2. Students will use certain shapes/colors to convey meaning.
3. Students will realize that a simple shape can be rendered in many different ways.
4. Students will familiarize themselves with many different media and how they interact with each other.

Suggestions for student assessment:

Evaluate student work using the following criteria. It is advisable to share the criteria with your class before asking students to begin the assignment. Does the student work:

1. Convey an understanding of color and its meaning within the piece?
2. Realize they can make multiple renderings from same object?
3. Acknowledge that depending on the media used there will be interaction between them?

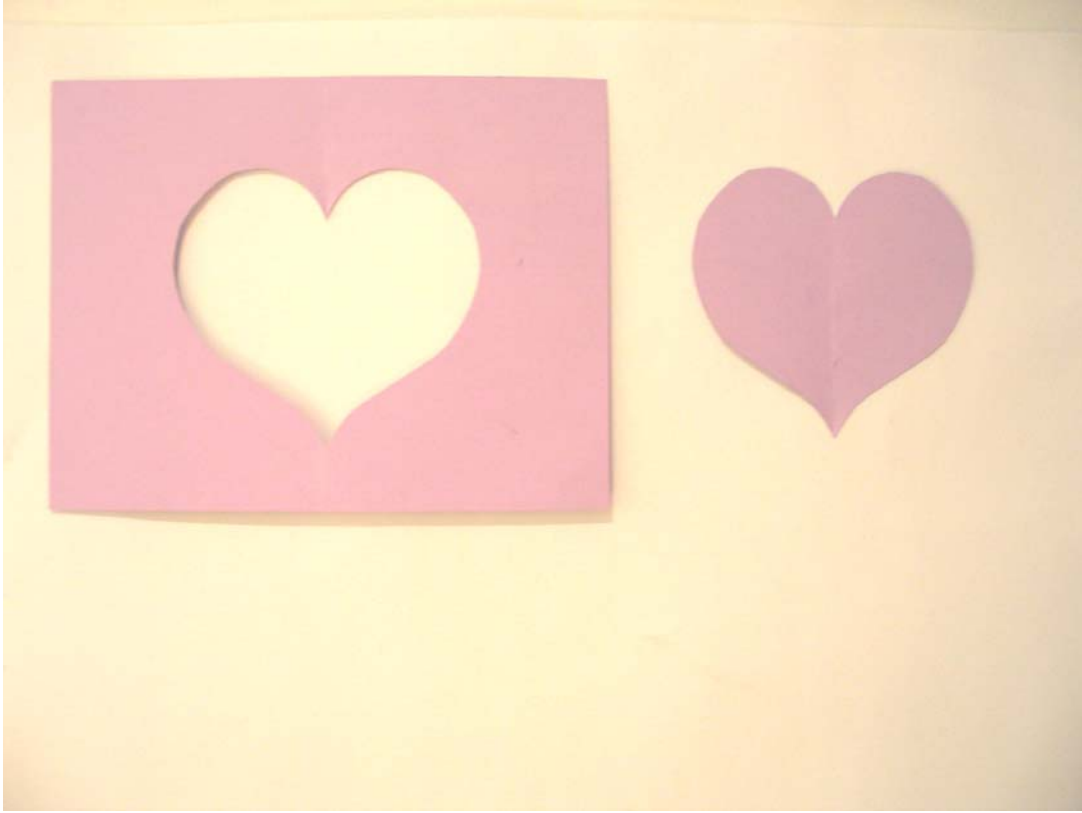
Teaching resources necessary to support this lesson: color wheel, slides or large copies of Jim Dines series, or other artwork.

Lesson Plan:

- I. Share works of art by *Jim Dine*, or pieces of art that use simple shapes to create a series (pop artists are a good resource). **[10 minutes]**
- II. Discuss by asking the following questions:
 - What kind of shapes do you see?
 - What kind of colors do you see?
 - Do all the shapes in the artwork look the same?
 - If not, how do they differ? **[10 minutes]**
- III. After discussion hand each student a piece of scrap paper and a pair of scissors. Instruct them to cut out 1 shape from the paper that they will use to create their series (mirroring the themes of Jim Dine, you can encourage them to create a heart). **[5 minutes]**
- IV. Once students have created their shapes, hand out the large watercolor paper. Have each student fold the paper in half, both horizontally and vertically, to create four equal quadrants. **[5 minutes]**
- V. Instruct the students to place their shape in each of the quadrants and trace around the shape with a pencil. Be sure to emphasize to the students to rotate the shape as they place it in the quadrants. **[5 minutes]**
- VI. Advise the students to color each quadrant with at least two different media. Tell them to experiment with how media play off each other (if your students are younger, you will want to explain to them how crayons will resist watercolor, etc...). Ask them to remember the work of series they have seen and try to make each quadrant different, but relatable. **[30 minutes]**
- VII. Once the paintings have dried, display them so that the students can see what their peers have created, and how even though many of the shapes are the same, how differently they've been rendered. If students worked on the same shape, group those works of art together to show how a series works within a series and even functions as a new series in and of itself. **[10 minutes]**

Supply List

- ✓ Scrap Paper
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Large, Watercolor Paper (18"x 24")
- ✓ Watercolors
- ✓ Paintbrushes
- ✓ Cups
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Pastels
- ✓ Crayons
- ✓ Pencils



Completed work from *Exploring Series and Media* lesson plan