

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Artist's Books INSTRUCTIONS



INSPIRATION ARTIST:

Magali Lara (1956, Mexico City, Mexico)

Magali Lara is a Mexican contemporary, multidisciplinary artist whose organic and conceptual work highlights feminine issues such as being a mother, being a woman, being a girl, gender violence. She is considered a leading figure in the feminist contribution of the Mexican contemporary art movement.

Lara has produced works as both an essayist and a visual artist. In her autobiographical writing she describes her work as follows: "My work is found in an intersection. Text and image coexist in different ways. As Siamese twins, that have developed different personalities but that, in the end, share a vital nucleus." - Magali Lara

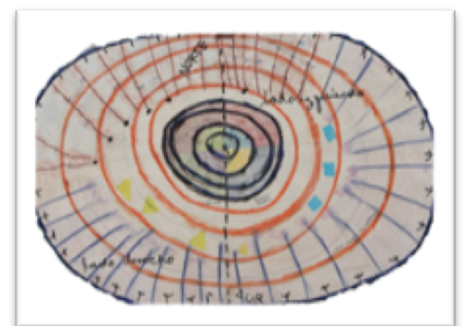
Lara received her BA from the National School of Applied Arts in 1977 and that same year she exhibited her work 'Tijeras' (Scissors), which consisted of a hand-made artist's book containing a series of drawings, collages and short phrases along with prints of selected drawings. In 1981 she co-curated the first exhibition of Mexican contemporary women artists. She teaches painting in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Morelos and currently lives and works in Cuernavaca, Mexico.



La enemiga, 1987 - La bruja, 1987 - La gigante, 1987



Ventanas (Windows), 1977



Lado derecho / lado izquierdo, 1979

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MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Pen or Sharpie (any color)
- Blank Piece of Paper (8.5"x11"/any light color)
- Crayons or Colored Pencils or Markers (any colors)
- Optional: Scissors
- Optional: Magazines/ Coupons/ Mailers
- Optional: Glue Stick or Glue Bottle

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: What are "artist's books"?

An artist's book is a means of expression that uses the form or function of a "book." These objects can be unique copies, or they can be printed in limited editions. They do not have to illustrate a story. In this project, participants will create an "artist's book" with the theme "Windows" inspired by Magali Lara's art.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever created a book before?
2. How would creating art for many "pages" be different from creating a single work of art?
3. Do you have to make a plan to create the art that will fill your book? You can, but in an artist's book you don't have to.
4. How do you think a book that is made by hand would look different from one that is printed professionally? (Don't worry- they are supposed to look very different!)

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Think about different types of windows in buildings, homes, and businesses. When you look at windows you can see they are often different shapes; square, rectangular, oval, circular, etc. Some windows are big, some small, some in a row. Think about what you see through windows; people, rooms, curtains, blinds, cats, dogs, so many things! When you are creating your book of windows, use these ideas to fuel your creativity!

Step 2:

Lay your paper horizontally (FIG. 1) and fold it in half lengthwise (FIG. 2). Fold it in half again (FIG. 3). Then take the piece of paper that you just folded and fold it back towards you (FIG. 4). Flip the whole paper over and do the same thing on the other side. You should end up with your paper looking like an accordion (FIG. 5).

Step 3:

Stretch out your "book" and on the furthest section on the left write your book title and put your name as the author/artist. Choose any title you want that relates to windows (FIG. 6). If you would rather wait until you have finished your drawings to give your book a title, leave this space blank and return to it when you have finished drawing all the other pages. Remember that an artist's book doesn't have to be a story, so the title and the drawings don't have to "match".

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Step 4:

Begin filling your pages with drawings of windows (see examples below below, FIG. 7-10). The great thing about artist's books is you do not have to write a story or have every page in a certain order. Be creative! Are you looking in windows from the outside or are you looking out of the window from the inside? Add animals or faces or objects- you can draw them or cut them out of magazines or do both. Write words if you want to. You are the artist, have fun!

POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. How did you like creating an artist's book versus writing and illustrating a traditional book?
2. Did you enjoy creating each page as its own mini artwork?

EXTRA FUN:

- Create more artist's books using different themes- the sky's the limit!
- Put your artist's book into an envelope and mail it to someone you know would enjoy it!

ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

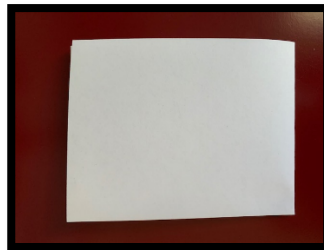


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

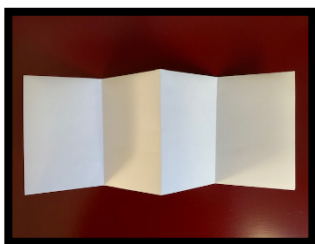


FIG. 5

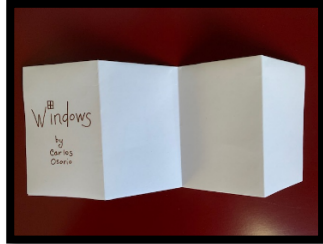


FIG. 6

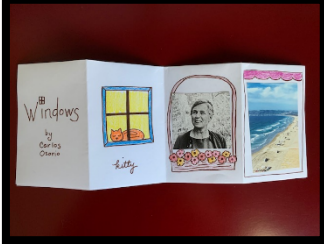


FIG. 7



FIG. 8



FIG. 9



FIG. 10

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SOURCES:

<https://hammer.ucla.edu/radical-women/artists/magali-lara>

<https://macaulay.cuny.edu/calendar-of-events/artists-books-and-other-collaborations/>

<https://muac.unam.mx/objeto/la-enemiga-la-bruja-y-la-gigante?lang=en>