

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Memory Quilt **INSTRUCTIONS**



INSPIRATION ARTIST:

Faith Ringgold (Born 1930, New York City)

Faith Ringgold (born in New York City in 1930) was an art teacher in public schools in the 1960's when she began painting. During the 1980s, she began a series of quilts that are among her best-known works, and she later embarked on a successful career as a children's book author and illustrator. Ringgold has now written and illustrated more than 15 children's books and her work continues to be exhibited in major museums around the world.

Faith Ringgold's artworks are story quilts—a traditional American craft associated with women's communal work that also has roots in African culture. Ringgold's great-great-great-grandmother was an enslaved woman in the South who made quilts for plantation owners suggesting a connection between her art and her family history. The folk-art quality of the quilts is Ringgold's way of emphasizing narrative over style, and not focusing on elaborate techniques.



Woman on a Bridge
#1 of 5: Tar Beach, 1988
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum



Groovin High, 1996
Silkscreen



The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Aries, 1996
Silkscreen

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Pencil and Eraser
- Pen, Marker, or Sharpie (Black or any color you have available)
- White or light colored 8.5”x 11” Paper (1 piece)
- Ruler (or something with a straight edge, like a book or cereal box)
- Colored pencils, Crayons, or Markers
- Scraps of paper, 3-4 pieces (wrapping paper, ads from the mail, magazine photos, anything with colors/pictures/patterns on them. You can use papers with words on them, but you will want to cut off the words before gluing them onto the paper)
- Scissors
- Glue stick or Glue bottle

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will create a work of art inspired by the narrative qualities in the artwork of Faith Ringgold, by thinking of a moment or story they want to emphasize and share in their own quilt design. It can be a big event like a wedding or family reunion or can be a simple moment like baking cookies with their grandmother. Artists will try to capture the spirit and style of Ringgold’s work, noting she does not worry about perspectives being exact or drawing realistic figures, the importance in her art is the story itself.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. What story or moment will you share and why is that important to you?
2. When you think about special moments in your life can you close your eyes and “see” the moment in your mind? What is it? What does it make you feel?
3. How can we share what is in our mind by drawing it out on paper?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Take a moment to look closely at Ringgold’s artworks and notice the way the figures and scenes are drawn in a folk-art style, and not drawn perfectly. Notice the different fabrics forming “frames” around the main story space and that they can have different patterns and colors.

Step 2:

Begin the visual art process by choosing if you want your quilt artwork to be horizontal or vertical. Using your ruler (or whatever straight edge you have) and pencil, draw a large rectangle shape centered as best as possible on your white paper where the main narrative drawing will be. The rectangle does not have to be measured perfectly (FIG. 1). Inside that rectangle draw your story scene using your pencil. Outline your images using big shapes and few details in your drawing to keep it in the folk-art style. Once you have finished drawing in pencil, use your pen/marker to draw over and darken the penciled outlines (FIG. 2). Erase any pencil lines that show.

Step 3:

After darkening the pencil lines, use colored pencils or markers (whatever coloring tools you have on hand) to fill in the drawing with large areas of color (FIG. 3). The space around the rectangle should still be empty.

LESSON PLAN

Step 4:

Now it's time to create your "fabric" pieces using the scrap paper. Using the ruler or straight edge, draw lines with your pen or marker on the patterned paper creating rectangles or squares of different widths (FIG. 4). Use your scissors to cut them out (FIG. 5). You may or may not use all the paper you cut out in your artwork.

Step 5:

Lay out the scrap pieces of rectangles and squares around the edges of your paper to create a "frame" around your story. You can trim the pieces of paper with your scissors to make them fit better if necessary. Once they are laid out, carefully glue them down piece by piece (FIG. 6). When the frame is finished, your artwork is complete!

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. How did you like sharing a "story" in your artwork?
2. What did you like about creating in the "folk-art" style?
3. How did your resulting artwork compare to what you originally envisioned?

EXAMPLES:

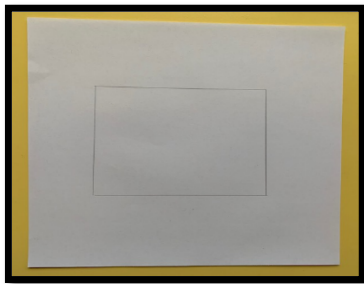


FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

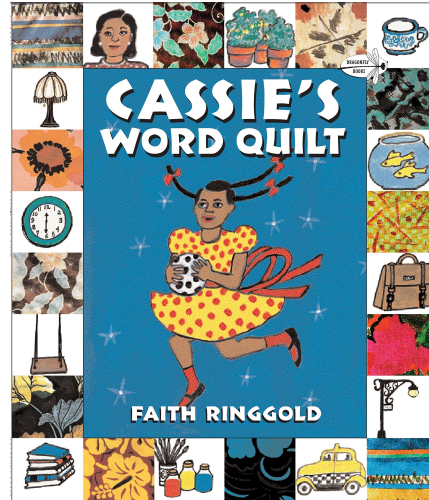
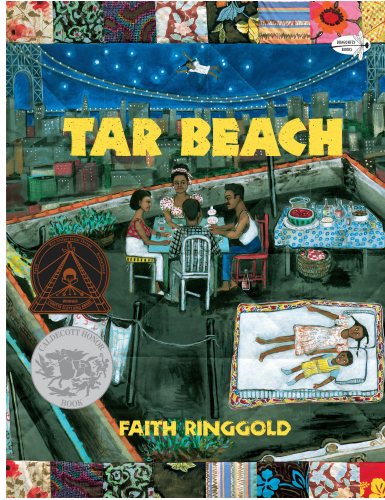


FIG. 6

EXTRA FUN:

1. Faith Ringgold's works of art have narrative qualities; they tell a visual story. Many of her paintings have inspired children's books. Here are some books that are based on by Faith Ringgold's paintings, take some time and read these stories!

LESSON PLAN



2. See Faith Ringgold reading her book *Tar Beach*; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9RKJleFdBu>

3. Optional Writing Project: Take some time to write about the story in your quilt work of art. Who was there? What was happening? Why does it feel special to you? What do you feel inside when you think about this moment?

SOURCES:

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/3719>

<https://www.biography.com/artist/faith-ringgold>