

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Monochromatic Assemblage Art

INSTRUCTIONS

INSPIRATION ARTIST:

Louise Nevelson (1899-1988)



Photo by Richard Avedon

Louise Nevelson was an American sculptor known for her monumental, monochromatic, wooden wall pieces and outdoor sculptures. Nevelson was born in the Poltava Governorate of the Russian Empire (present-day Ukraine), and emigrated with her family to the United States in the early 20th century. Nevelson learned English at school and spoke Yiddish at home.

In the early 1930's Nevelson began attending art classes at the Art Students League of New York, and in 1941 she had her first solo exhibition. Nevelson experimented with early conceptual art using found objects and dabbled in painting and printing before dedicating her lifework to sculpture. Usually created out of wood, her sculptures appear puzzle-like, with multiple intricately cut pieces placed into wall sculptures or independently standing pieces, often 3-D. One unique feature of her work is that her figures are often painted in monochromatic black or white.

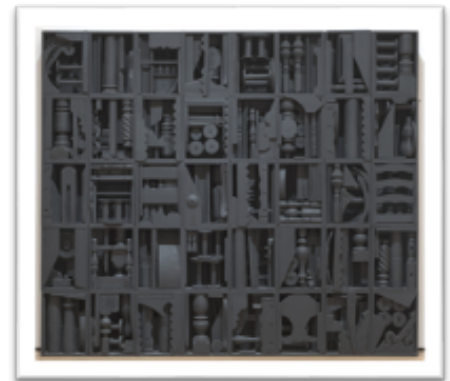
Nevelson remains one of the most important figures in 20th-century American sculpture. Louise Nevelson's *Black Wall* 1959 is a sculptural assemblage comprised of twenty-four wooden boxes arranged in the style for which the artist would become famous.



Black Wall, 1959
Painted wood



Lunar Landscape, 1959-60
Painted Wood



Big Black, 1963
Painted Wood

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- A Base: cookie sheet, box lid, plastic container, colored paper etc.
- Found Objects

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will create a monochromatic assemblage inspired by the artwork of Louise Nevelson, using collected items from their home or yard.

VOCABULARY:

Monochrome: Monochrome means one color - so in relation to art, a monochrome artwork is one that includes only one color

Assemblage: art that is made by assembling disparate elements – often everyday objects – scavenged by the artist or specially bought

Composition: the arrangement of elements within a work of art

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever seen assemblage art? What questions do you have about it?
2. Where will you search for your objects? Your toybox, your kitchen, your garage?
3. Nevelson worked primarily in black and white. What color will you choose? Why?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Decide what color you will be working with. Consider finding and collecting different tones and values of your chosen color. Objects with different textures can add more visual interest to your composition.

Step 2:

Collect multiple objects of this color. Your artwork can be big, containing many objects or small having just a few objects (3-5 items), artists choice!

Step 3:

Arrange the objects you have collected on your base. Spend time moving your objects around on your base until you have achieved your desired composition.

Step 4:

When you are satisfied with your composition take a photo and share it!

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Why did you select the objects that you collected?
2. Was it challenging to arrange your objects? If so, why?
3. How do you feel about using found objects in your artwork?
4. What did you learn from creating this type of art?

EXTRA FUN: Choose another color and try again!

LESSON PLAN

EXAMPLES:



EXTRA EXTRA FUN:

Collect many different objects of any color. With permission, glue your found objects down onto your surface and spray paint. Don't forget your mask!



SOURCES:

<https://www.louisenevelsonfoundation.org/biography.php>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/louise-nevelson-1696>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/louise-nevelson>