

LESSON TITLE: Celebrate with Cake – and Celebrate Wayne Thiebaud

Presenters: Monique Poldberg & Eileen O'Brien

Grade Level: Elementary

Background Information:

Wayne Thiebaud (b. 1920) is a contemporary California artist, known for his painting of familiar objects and food, including cakes and pies. He was a professor at UC Davis and has artwork in many collections throughout the country.

Visual Arts Standards addressed with the lesson:

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS		
CREATING	Anchor Standard #2	Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
PERFORMING PRESENTING PRODUCING	Anchor Standard #5	Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
RESPONDING	Anchor Standard #9	Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
CONNECTING	Anchor Standard #11	Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core Content Standards addressed with the lesson:

- ✓ ELA Speaking/Listening, Reading: *Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media format (visual)*
- ✓ ELA Writing: *Draw evidence from a variety of text (including visual, oral and print) to support analysis, reflection and research*
- ✓ ELA Language: *Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases*

Learning Objectives/Goals/Essential Understandings:

- Explore art created by a contemporary California artist using available resources (online, calendars, postcards)
- Create artwork depicting a cake using the media of watercolor and crayon resist

Vocabulary:

Cylinder, Repetition, Variety, Line, Shape, Color, Layer, Foreground, Background, Shadow, Point of View

Materials:

Crayon, Paper, Watercolor Paint

Motivation:

Introduce Wayne Thiebaud and show examples of his artwork depicting cake. Suggestions include “Cakes” (1963) at the National Gallery of Art (www.nga.gov)

Brainstorm different reasons you would want to celebrate with cake.

Procedure:

1. Teacher models how to draw a cylinder as the basic shape for a cake or cupcake.
2. Students practice drawing cylinders and practice making a cake or cupcake on scratch paper.
3. Students draw their cake with crayon on the watercolor paper.
4. Students add embellishments with crayon. This may include use of a variety of lines, shapes, and colors.
5. Students watercolor the remaining cake/frosting.
6. Teacher may want to introduce light source and shadows and have students add this element.
7. For the background, students can
 - a. Draw a table (horizon) line and paint;
 - b. Paint a light or contrasting watercolor wash behind the cake; or
 - c. Cut out the cake and place on a separate watercolored background paper.

Assessment and/or Evaluation:

Compare student artwork to classmates’ or Thiebaud’s in large or small group discussions using vocabulary appropriately.

Extensions:

Write about cake!

- a. Informative or Expository paragraph about Wayne Thiebaud;
- b. Narrative paragraph about their created cake with sensory details; and/or
- c. Opinion paragraph about why their cake should be purchased or eaten or win the prize!

Use student artwork to create greeting cards. Students may also include original writing in their cards.

Share work of Thiebaud with other subjects, such as cityscapes and landscapes, familiar objects, other food, and people. You may choose any of those as subjects for future lessons!

Additional Resources/References:

Wayne Thiebaud “Cake Math” lessons at nga.gov

<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/teachers/lessons-activities/counting-art/thiebaud-elem.html>

<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/teachers/lessons-activities/counting-art/thiebaud-intermed.html>

Cupcake “sculptures”:

<http://www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/make-a-fake-cake>

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/wayne-thiebaud-is-not-a-pop-artist-57060/?no-ist=&story=fullstory&page=1>

DVDs:

Behind the Scenes–Wayne Thiebaud: Line (Crystal Productions)

Who is the Artist? Artists of Pop Art (Lichtenstein, Thiebaud, Warhol)
(Crystal Productions)

Art Posters of Thiebaud Work (Crystal Productions)

Roll-a-Masterpiece: Pinterest or Teacherspayteachers