

Come to a Rizzi City!

Monique Poldberg

Eileen O'Brien

Lake Elsinore Unified School District

Grade levels:

Elementary, middle

Background information:

James Rizzi (1950-2011) was a pop artist from Brooklyn, New York. His art depicts the bright, colorful, and giddy world of city life.

Content standards:

National Core Arts Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas for a house patterned after the work of the artist James Rizzi.

National Core Arts Anchor Standard 2: Develop and create artwork using watercolor and crayon resist.

Learning objectives:

Students will explore and appreciate James Rizzi's contribution to the world of pop art by creating their own Rizzi House.

Vocabulary:

pop art, façade, crayon resist, whimsical, facial features, contrast

Materials:

Crayons

Water color

12x18 white construction or watercolor paper

Optional: wire

Examples of Rizzi's work (online: see resources)

Motivation:

Display and discuss various color pictures that illustrate life in Rizzi's cities

Show actual photos of New York City that illustrate its dense population and skyline.

Show actual photos of Rizzi's Happy House in Brunswick, Germany

Procedure:

Make a 0.5-inch fold in the white paper on the 12-inch side.

Fold the paper in half 12-inch side to 12-inch side.

Fold the paper once more, creating 4 facades.

On each facade, create a different face in Rizzi's whimsical style. Where possible, incorporate windows and doors into the facial features.

Use either crayon or watercolor to color the faces' features.

Paint each facade a different color.

Fold the house together and glue the fold to the inside of the closest facade.

Assessment and/or evaluation:

Compare and contrast the student-created house with Rizzi's house.

Extensions:

Art

Older children--or younger ones with help--could tape a 12-inch piece of wire into each inside fold and after gluing bend the house to give it a more animated look.

Use cardboard to create a single facade. Paint with bright acrylic paint. Use oven bake clay to create the facial features. Bake as directed.

Writing

Students compare their Rizzi house with an original Rizzi house. How are they alike? How are they different?

Write a short biography of James Rizzi.

Compose a poem (ex.: haiku/diamanté/limerick) using vocabulary that best embodies Rizzi's apparent joie de vive reflected in his whimsical art.

Resources:

<http://www.deepspacesparkle.com/2011/10/12/james-rizzi-art-lesson/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xlk7Oqcg9a8>

<http://decojournal.com/pop-art-happy-rizzi-house-germany/>

<http://www.kuriositas.com/2012/04/happy-rizzi-house.html>