

Monument

In a French art studio, artists are busy creating modern art. Taking inspiration from Picasso, they create art using a variety of mediums based on his 'Monument' painting of a 3D sculpture. Red, white and blue, the colours of the French flag, inspire their masterpieces. They try their hand at sculpture by adding carefully chosen sets of objects to a preset frame.

Environment

Create an inspiring artist's studio using a variety of unusual tactile resources. Limit the colour palette to red, white and blue to complement the 'French' theme. On one side of the space, we used:

- Stretch wrap cube/screen made by stretching polythene/clingfilm across a white-piping frame
- Coloured gels, cut into shapes with features drawn onto them to enhance the Picasso theme
- Water sprayers – spray the stretchwrap to stick the gels onto the frame
- Red/white/blue gravel in bowls on separate black cloths – obtainable from pet shops
- Red/white/blue rice on separate trays – easy to dye using ready mix paint in freezer zipper bags
- Red/white/blue voiles hanging from walls
- Red/white/blue streamers

On the other side of the space, erect a frame structure using poles, stands and cardboard cubes, to which objects can be easily attached to make a 3D sculpture. Using the Picasso painting as inspiration, choose the objects carefully, considering their texture, the sounds they make, how people might engage with them. We used:

- Instruments as part of the frame itself; chimes, tubophones, snake bells and hand bells
- Polystyrene heads on poles
- Tubes and cones
- Fly swatters (shaped like hands!)
- Balloons
- Large water bottles
- Plants – giving a smell or taste element

There is no right way to do this, every group will create something different - just enjoy!

Costume - clothing that is red, white and/or blue, or artist berets

Music - To give a French feeling to the proceedings you could use music played on a quintessentially French instrument. Maybe the hurdy-gurdy played by Patrick Bouffard, Giles Chabenat or Frederick Paris, or the accordion music of Andre Verchuren or Emile Vacher. Alternatively you could go for a more jazzy feel with Quintet Clarinettes or Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt. As the instruments on the sculpture become involved you could use one of them to maintain a steady rhythm to hold the group together.

Activities

Making Art - Explore the variety of mediums on offer, though some participants may become totally focused on one thing - which is fine.

- Create many different patterns on the screen using the variety of gel shapes and colours.
- Smaller Perspex sheets or frames can be used on the laps of wheelchair users to make this accessible for them.
- Feel and hear the coloured gravel, pouring through fingers, onto trays or the black cloths, making patterns with your fingers.
- Play with the coloured rice, burying fingers/toes, making patterns, pouring onto coloured gels, which sounds like rain.
- Bring out the red/white/blue voiles across the space, over people's heads.
- Encourage movement through, around, underneath, creating a swirling haze of colour, seeing each other through different colours.
- Dance with red/white/blue streamers, flicking, twirling, spinning, painting colours in the air.

3D Sculpture - Begin by adding the streamers to the frame to give it colour and focus participants on the structure. Explore the instruments that are already hanging on the frame, creating a soundscape around the structure. Begin exploring the different objects one by one before adding them to the structure.

Here are a few ideas based on objects we used:

- Introduce tubes and cones - which can be swung around to create sound, or used for calling and listening to each other and selves. They are then attached to the frame, easily slid onto protruding poles or looped over structure.
- Balloons and fly swatters shaped like hands make for a playful section encouraging movement, interaction with each other...and fun!
- Polystyrene heads on white pipe poles add a surreal feel to the sculpture and can be used for interaction, dancing and play or simply to feel the shape of a face; eyes, nose, mouth, ears.
- 'Cucumber plant' - giving a 'taste' element - cool, watery slices can be offered to everyone while the finished sculpture is admired by all.

Links

Stretchwrap

Costume

Torches

Video

Monument