



Curriculum Guide & Activity

Odili

Donald

Odita

ICA
MIAMI



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INTRODUCTION

In this course, educators will discuss how artists Odili Donald Odita uses color, shapes, and abstraction to convey identity. Additionally, students will compare the various historical and cultural influences that have inspired Odita to produce various works of art.

By viewing the artist's work, students will explore how the artist, Odili Donald Odita, uses symbolism to reflect on identity, culture, and place. Furthermore, through study in the arts, students will learn about and honor others and the worlds in which they lived.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will explore how artist, Odili Donald Oditia, uses symbolism to reflect on identity, culture and place.



All images courtesy the artist.

FOR TEACHERS - FLORIDA STATE STANDARDS

Visual Arts

VA.68.H.2

Enduring Understanding 2: The arts reflect and document cultural trends and historical events, and help explain how new directions in the arts have emerged.

VA.68.O.3

Enduring Understanding 3: Every art form uses its own unique language, verbal and non-verbal, to document and communicate with the world.

English Language Arts

LAFS.6.RL.3.AP.7a

Compare the similarities of reading a story or drama to listening to or viewing an audio, video or live version of the text.

LAFS.5.RI.2.AP.6b

Identify the similarities between points of view of multiple accounts of the same event or topic.
Identify the differences between points of view of multiple accounts of the same event or topic.

Social Studies

SS.6.W.1.1

Use timelines to identify chronological order of historical events.

SS.6.W.1.6

Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.

KEY DISCUSSION

During the initial discussion, pose questions that will draw upon students' critical thinking skills by asking them to compare and contrast how the artist has adapted mythical, classical, or religious literary texts and symbols in their work.



The Other Side of the Wall, 2018, Courtesy of Jack Shainman Gallery

VOCABULARY TERMS

COLOR THEORY

The collection of rules and guidelines regarding the use of color in art and design, as developed to inform color schemes, visual aesthetic and effective communication on both visual and psychological level.

SHAPE

An enclosed space, the boundaries of which are defined by other elements of art (i.e.: lines, colors, values, textures, etc.). Shapes are limited to two dimensions: length and width.

MURAL

A large work of art painted or affixed directly on a wall or ceiling.

BLACK MAMBAS

Species of mamba snake known for its large size, quickness, and extremely potent venom. Two drops of its venom can kill a person.

SYMBOLISM

An implied meaning that is deeper or different from the literal meaning of an object, place, or idea. These meanings may represent ideas, qualities, or attitudes associated with an object.

CONNOTATION

The various social overtones, cultural implications, or emotional meanings associated with a person, place, or thing.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Odita was born on 18 February 1966, in Enugu, Nigeria. In 1967, his family were forced to flee Nigeria in order to avoid the Biafran war. They then resided in Columbus, Ohio in the United States.

Starting at the age of five, Odita began recreating drawings from superhero comic books, and later fashion magazines. He said, "I knew I was going to be an artist after I did a marathon copying of images from a stack of prints/drawings that my father had collected for his work as an art historian." Day and night, Odita drew until fatigue forced him to fall asleep.

Odita received his BFA, with Distinction, from Ohio State University in 1988, where he also received the Excellence in the Arts Award. He received a MFA from Bennington College, Vermont in 1990.

His work explores color both in the figurative historical context and in the sociopolitical sense. Most of Odita's work is inspired by the vibrant textiles of his home country, Nigeria, mixed with patterns from Western modernity.



All images courtesy the artist.

ABOUT THE WORK



Great Divide, 2017, Courtesy of Jack Shainman Gallery

Odili Donald Odita is an abstract painter whose work explores color both in the figurative historical context. Odita's abstract paintings combine hard-edged bands of color with an earthy African palette, in patterns that also suggest West African textiles. "In my paintings, I am dealing with memory, the presence and absence of experiences removed; nostalgia for a lost past, and the hope for something new and better," he says. In installation works and digitally manipulated imagery from fashion advertisements, Odita critiques Western consumerism and the fashion industry's reductive representations of racial identity. His work also comments on social and political realities in his native Nigeria.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

A Closer Look with Odili Donald Odita

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMx_1uy9aKE&ab_channel=artBMA%3AACloserLook

Famed Artist Odili Donald Odita draws from “The Knowledge of Trees” for Cummins Inc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtdITvJeMsQ&ab_channel=Cummins

Explore variations of white. | Odili Donald Odita | The Art Assignment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOHmfuD58IM&ab_channel=TheArtAssignment

ACTIVITY

SNAKE MURAL

Age Range: K-5th grade

Activity Duration: 30 minutes

Students will create a snake inspired by artist Odili Donald Odita mural, Mamba Negra 2019.

MATERIALS

Large piece of paper



Pencil



Glue



Gather 3-5 various materials in your yard. These items can be leaves, flowers, grass, sticks and rocks. You will need 3-5 containers to hold your materials as you gather them throughout the yard.

ACTIVITY

SNAKE MURAL

Activity Instructions

1. Before making the natural snakes: Think about what material you want to use for the snake body. (Eyes, Mouth, Belly and Tail)
2. Also, consider the scale and length of the snake. Think about rhythm within the patterns.
3. Draw on your piece of paper the shape of a snake. Create large patterns on the snake's body.
4. Now fill in the patterns with the natural objects you collected. Think about how the objects can create a pattern within the pattern you drew.

*You have the option to glue the items to the paper or simply take a photo of your completed work and return the items back to their natural habitat.