VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Workshop:
My Favorite Color in Five Senses

Learn how to compose a short poem inspired by your favorite color and five senses using similes and synesthesia. You will also be introduced to artist Nick Cave and poet Arthur Rimbaud.

Teaching Artist:
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Workshop duration: 25 minutes - 45 minutes
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OBJECTIVES

You will learn:

• How to compose a short poem inspired by your favorite color and five senses

• How to use similes in poetry

• How to make creative decisions using synaesthesia

• How to incorporate non-visual imagery into creative decision-making

• About the work of artist Nick Cave and poet Arthur Rimbaud

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY/APP/SOFTWARE

• Laptop, tablet, smartphone, or smart screen with internet access and streaming capabilities.

• 1 piece of paper

• A writing utensil
DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

METHODS

• Instruction is provided in **text and video** formats, available in both Spanish and English.

• You may also work **offline** by printing this art-making guide, as well as this **step-by-step document**.

• YouTube can automatically create **closed captions**.

  ![CC button](image)

  Click the [CC] button near the lower right corner of the viewer frame. Please note: captions are generated by algorithms, so their quality may vary.

• A variety **language subtitles** are available for each video.

  ![Subtitle settings](image)

• Paper can be torn using one or two hands. For one hand tearing, hold paper between one hand & another body part (elbow, foot, chin, etc) or between one hand & a heavy object, such as a book.

• For students with hearing, or sensory impairments, a partner can model the art-making techniques using non-verbal actions.

• For students with limited mobility, sensory sensitivities and behavioral & psychological barriers, paper and magazines can be pre-torn into shapes.

• For students with limited mobility, assign different eye movements as a method for making creative decisions, **ex.** one blink = yes; looking to the right = move paper to the right.
You will be introduced to these artists, art histories, movements and/or concepts:

**Simile:** A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more vivid, for example, *the clouds were like ice-cream castles in the sky.*

**Synaesthesia:** The joining together of senses and sensations that are not normally connected, for example, tasting sound, smelling colors and seeing scents.

*Nick Cave*  
*Sound Suit, 2009*

*Arthur Rimbud*

*A Black, E white, I red, U green, O blue; vowels,*

*I shall tell, one day, of your mysterious origins:

A, black velvety jacket of brilliant flies*

*Which buzz around cruel smells,*

*Gulfs of shadow; E, whiteness of vapours and of tents,*

*Lances of proud glaciers, white kings, shivers of cow-parsley;*

*I, purples, spat blood, smile of beautiful lips*

*In anger or in the raptures of penitence;*

*U, waves, divine shudderings of viridian seas;*

*The peace of pastures dotted with animals, the peace of the furrows*

*Which alchemy prints on broad studious foreheads;*

*O, sublime Trumpet full of strange piercing sounds,*

*Silences crossed by Worlds and by Angels:*

*O the Omega, the violet ray of Her Eyes!*
1. Have your **paper and writing utensil** ready or have someone ready to write for you.

2. **Imagine** that you are walking down the street and you turn the corner and there, floating in the air, is a blob of your favorite color.

3. **Imagine** walking up to your favorite color and giving it a sniff. What does your favorite color would smell like?
   
   Write down your answer:  **[My favorite color] smells like _____**.

4. Now **imagine** pinching off a little piece of your favorite color. Imagine feeling it in your fingers. What does your favorite color feel like?
   
   Write down your answer:  **[My favorite color] feels like _____**.

5. **Hold that little piece of your favorite color up to your ear**. Your favorite color is making a sound. What does your favorite color sound like?
   
   Write down your answer:  **[My favorite color] sounds like ______**.

6. **Now taste that little piece of your favorite color**. Without repeating what it smells like, what does your favorite color taste like?
   
   Write down your answer:  **[My favorite color] tastes like ______**.

7. **You give your favorite color a little piece back**. This makes your favorite color happy. When it is happy, it changes into its’ favorite shape. Imagine what shape your favorite color takes, for example, a simple shape like a square? The shape of an object, like a chair?
   
   Write down your answer:  **[My favorite color] looks like _____**.

8. You’ve written down what your favorite color smells like, feels like, sounds like, tastes like, and looks like. **You now have a five-line poem:**

   [My favorite color] smells like ________.
   [My favorite color] feels like ________.
   [My favorite color] sounds like ________.
   [My favorite color] tastes like ________.
   [My favorite color] looks like ________.
9. **Read your poem** out loud or have someone read it to you.

10. You may make changes if like or try using another color, or multiple colors.

11. Just like movies and books, poems have titles. **What do you want to call your poem?** Write the title at the top of your paper.

12. By talking about your favorite color as you’ve done in your poem you have successfully used three very important techniques:

   a. **Images**, which are descriptions, based on any of your five senses.

   b. **Similes**, which is when you compare two things using the words *like* or *as*. In fact, we use similes in conversation all the time. Try to notice the next time you use a simile when you’re describing something to somebody, using the words *like* or *as*.

   c. You also used **synesthesia**, which means you have mixed up the senses in some way. Some people experience synesthesia in their lives. Some people can taste numbers or see certain colors when they hear certain sounds.

13. Other artists like you, use synesthesia in their work. The poet **Arthur Rimbaud** wrote a poem titled “Vowels,” in which he described the vowels *a, e, i, o,* and *u* as having odd sounds and colors. For example, the vowel *a* is a black velvety jacket that buzzes like flies.

14. The artist **Nick Cave** mixes sculpture and sound by creating art that he can wear. He calls these **sound suits** and the make sounds when he moves and dances in them.

15. There are many other ways to use **images, similes,** and **synesthesia** in art.

16. Thank you for taking the time to work in your poem. You’ve done an amazing job today!
This workshop incorporates the following Illinois State Learning Standards:

**Language Arts:** L.VAU.5 **Primary:** Vocabulary Acquisition and Use; Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings; When reading, listening, writing, and speaking, explain the function of figurative language, word relationships, and connotation/denotation and use them correctly and effectively.

**Language Arts:** R.CS.4 **Primary:** Craft and Structure; Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone; Describe how words and phrases supply meaning in a story, poem, or song.

**Writing:** CC.3.W.2.b **Primary:** Text Types and Purposes; Writing Standards; Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

**Writing:** CC.4.L.5 **Primary:** Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: Writing Standards; Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
If you are interested in receiving school credit for the work you have completed in this workshop, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] contact Nakyung Rhee via email at rhee@snowcityarts.org.

If you would like to have the work you created displayed in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery, please [have a parent or guardian if under 18] contact Nakyung Rhee via email at rhee@snowcityarts.org.

Contact Chi Achebe, Snow City Arts Program Manager at chi@snowcityarts.org if you would like to continue working virtually with one of our Teaching Artists, if you have questions, or would like to offer feedback.

Snow City Arts inspires and educates children and youth in hospitals through the arts.

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