VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION
STEP-BY-STEP 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 Authur Rimbaud.

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Workshop duration: 25-45 min
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 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 you 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 are 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 they 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 on your poem. You’ve done an amazing job today!
If you are interested in receiving school credit for the work you have completed in this workshop, please [have 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.

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