

PORTFOLIO COPY

BACKGROUND READING FOR ART PRESENTER

Stuart Davis (1894-1964)
First Grade

Stuart Davis was born in Philadelphia. His father, Edward Wyatt Davis, was an art editor of a big newspaper; his mother, Helen Davis, was a sculptor. Davis studied art in both New York City and Paris, France. He had his first big art show at the age of nineteen.

Although Davis was associated with abstract painting in the United States, he described himself as a realist. His bright, lively paintings deal with everyday life. Bold areas of intense, pure color and rugged written lines characterize his work. He received inspiration from such things as billboards, store fronts, and gas stations.

During World War I he served as a map maker with a special commission under the Army Intelligence Department preparing materials for the peace conference. He continued painting with great energy until the day of his death of a heart attack.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM
First Grade

Report from Rockport
Stuart Davis

1. What do you think is the subject of this painting? (a city?)
2. What part of the picture attracts your attention first? gas station?
3. Why do you think the artist scattered so many lines and shapes and colors all around?
4. What kind of feeling do you get from this scene?
5. How many different colors do you see? Name them.
6. Can you see some of the lines in this painting? Ask for a volunteer to come forward and trace them with his/her finger.
7. Point out some of the large shapes in this painting. The small shapes.
8. Do you see any words or letters in this painting? Any numbers?
9. Why do you think those words and letters are there?
10. What is the difference between a light and dark color?
11. Are there any dark colors in this painting? Light colors? Point them out.
12. Do you think this painting has more light colors in it or more dark colors?
13. What time of day do you think it is?
14. Why do you think this painting is named *Report from Rockport*?

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EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY

Report from Rockport

Stuart Davis
First Grade

1. Magazine and Construction Paper Collage

Materials: Old magazines, newspapers, brightly colored construction paper, black marker or black crayon, glue stick, white paper, scissors

Have students cut parts of pictures of buildings and words and letters from magazines and newspapers. Also have students cut shapes and letters from brightly colored construction paper. Encourage the use of contrasting colors and small and large shapes. Let students assemble these pieces in a composition of their choice. Lines of varying sizes and configurations may be added with broad tip markers or black crayons.

2. Partner Pictures

Materials: construction paper, newspapers, old magazines, black marker or crayon, glue stick, white paper, scissors

Have all students cut a variety of shapes and letters from construction paper, magazines, and newspapers. Then, have students put their name on the back of their piece of white paper. Let them begin by placing some of their collage pieces in an arrangement. Glue them on. After about 5 minutes, have students pass their paper to the next student (how to pass depends on the desk arrangements). Each student will now have another student's picture. Again, give about 5 minutes to add shapes and letters. Continue this as long as time permits. If students run out of shapes they have cut out, they could draw shapes/letters with the black crayon/marker.

3. Fat Letter Designs

Materials: thick paper or tagboard, white or colored paper, crayons, colored pencils,
or markers (whichever you think will work better for your class), scissors

Use the first letter of your name. Draw this letter on a piece of thick paper. When you draw the letter, make it big and fat. Cut out the letter. Trace around their cut-out letter on white or colored paper to make animals, pictures, and designs.