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BACKGROUND READING FOR PRESENTERS

Gaston Lachaise (gAstOn luh chaiz) 1882-1935

Gaston Lachaise was born in France, the son of a wood carver and cabinet maker. It was probably the atmosphere of his father's workshop which encouraged him to try his hand early in carving stone, ivory, and wood.

Lachaise fell in love with an American woman and moved to America to marry her. All of his adult life he lived and worked in America and never returned to France where he was born.

We will be looking at a sculpture of Lachaise's called "The Bee". The original one that he made, which is of polished brass, is in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This reproduction is of electroplated metal. Originally it was made by the artist to be used for the radiator cap of an automobile, but was actually never used for that purpose.

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Kindergarten
The Bee
Gaston Lachaise

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What tells you this piece of sculpture is a bee?
2. What are some of the things you notice about this bee that you like?
3. How does this bee look like ones that you have seen before? Different?
4. Does the bee appear as though it could fly? Why or why not?
5. If the bee is flying, where do you think it is going?
6. If you could touch this bee, how do you think it would feel? (smooth, rough?)
7. Is the bee shiny or dull?
8. Where are the bee's eyes? Legs? Wings? Head?
9. If this bee could make a sound, what sound do you think it would make?
10. Does the bee look tired, mad, happy? Why?
11. If you had a sculpture like this, what would you do with it?

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EXTENDED ACTIVITIES

1. Play dough sculptures

This is an easy play dough recipe: 2 1/2 cups of flour, 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, 1/2 cup salt, 1 tablespoon alum (optional) but makes it last longer

Food coloring

Cook on medium heat until it works into a ball. Add food coloring to a little bit of water before adding to dough. You may need to add water to make it a workable texture.

The amount of play dough you need will be determined by the number of students in the class. You may want to put a small ball of dough in a baggy for each, which they will also be able to use to carry their creation home in.

Give each student a piece of dough and some pipe cleaners for legs, antennae, wings.

One parent suggested using paper clips for wings.

2. Make a sculpture out of pipe cleaners. Each student could be given several (2 or 3). They do not need to make a bee. Just be creative.

3. Make a sculpture out of aluminum foil. Each student could be given several squares of foil.

Creative dramatics

4. What do bees do? (hover, sweep, sing, live in hives) Pretend you are a bee. How would you move? Ask a student to demonstrate. What sound would you make? Ask another student to make a bee sound. Let's emphasize that bees have small, but also large movement. They fly at different heights. If the teacher is agreeable, and you feel that this class can handle it, let all students try an interpretive dance of the bee. On the website there should be a link to Rimsky-Korsikoff's "Flight of the Bumble Bee", which you could play while they are flying. Perhaps just part of the class dancing at a time.