

## PORTFOLIO COPY

### BACKGROUND READING FOR ART PRESENTERS

Jean Sariano (1943-present), *The Seven-Ups*,  
**Original Color Intaglio, Artist's Proof**

Source: jeansariano.com

Born in 1943 in Oran, Algeria, Frenchman Jean Sariano studied art at *L'Ecole Régionale et Municipale Des Beaux Arts d'Oran*. He was forced to escape the Algerian Revolution to Vichy, France in 1956 with his mother and five siblings. From there, Sariano moved to Paris to pursue his art studies at the world famous *L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure Des Beaux Arts de Paris*.

To fund his studies, he became a janitor at Giraudon in Paris - a photo agency specialized in art. There he met all the Masters, and very quickly he was in charge of classifying thousands of painting reproductions "*A dream job for the eyes*". This job allowed him to make his first trip to New York where he immediately fell in love with the city. It was at this time that he started painting bicycles: "*I had a bicycle before my eyes, and I thought it was beautiful. It taught me to study the shape.*"

After his military service in France in 1968, Sariano went back to New York. The city allowed him to become who he really is: "*People trusted me and I was earning a living doing what I love.*" He found companionship and camaraderie in Manhattan's printmaking workshops and became recognized in the art community. In 1980 he discovered gouache to be his true art form.

Sariano has a prolific collection of work from the early 1960's to the present largely comprised of whimsical characters, linear cubism and a love of abstract shapes.

Sariano is inspired by:

- The whimsical characters of Walt Disney and the animators of the 20th century.
- The Aztec artistry of the Mexican culture and their appreciation for vibrant colors.
- Egyptian & Greek ancient art forms, old and present civilizations.
- Lastly, Cubism and Geometry is a tremendous influence in his art.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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*An Artist's Proof is an original graphic which the artist has pulled while he is experimenting with his plates to achieve the desired effect for the finished product.*

Think about the title. Look at the picture. How do they go together?  
What are these 7-ups? What are they doing?  
Have you ever seen anything like this before?

If there are seven 7-ups, why is there only one pair of feet?  
Which way are they looking? How can you tell?  
What kind of mouths do they have?  
Do they look like people at all?

What kind of mood are they in? How do they make you feel?

Look at the colors of the 7-ups. Describe the colors. Are they alike?  
Look at the shapes of the 7-ups. How are they alike and different?

Do you notice any lines in this picture? Where are they?

Do you see any spaces in this print? Where are they? What colors and shapes are the spaces?

Do you see any solid areas: Where are they? Compare the sizes of the solid areas.

Compare the solid areas to the spaces. Of which do you see the most?

What does texture mean? What texture are the 7-ups?

What do you think the artist was thinking when he made this picture?

Did he have a good imagination?

Do you use your imagination when you make a picture?

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY  
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1. Stamping

Materials: Paper, stampers, stamp ink

Show, using the Art Presenter website, Sariano prints. Point out that he uses repetition in his prints. Have students create a picture using stamps, then drawing in imaginative details.

\*When using stamps and ink pads, be sure that students use only one stamp per stamp pad so that the colors don't get mixed. Also, be sure that ink pads are closed tightly.

2. Silly Picture

Materials: paper, crayons (or other drawing tools)

Using their imagination, have students draw a whimsical, silly picture.

**Have the students put their name on the back of their paper before the project begins.**