



Fifty Moo Eighty

Jen Thario

Title: Pi-Cow-So Parade

Overview:

Students will learn about public art through an examination of The Denver Cow Parade. With activities adaptable for grades K - 1, 2 - 3, and 4 - 5, students will learn about modern artists and will create a variety of related art pieces based on the cow theme.

They will design and create a classroom gallery and cow parade, incorporating a variety of related features such as cow masks, cow-themed mixed media modern art pieces, including costumes and parade floats as desired.

Continuing with the cow theme, students will learn about and replicate the styles of famous artists (Pi-cow-so, Moo-net, Vincent van Calf, Frida Cow-lo, etc.) as they paint, draw, color and collage art.

Grades:

K - 1: cow masks

2 - 3: fine artists coloring pages

4 - 5: mixed media cows and parades

Students and classrooms may choose to collaborate on creating a grade-level or school-wide gallery and parade. Coordinate the event with the opening night reception of the Mobile Art Gallery at your school!

Subjects:

Visual Arts, Language Arts

Age Group:

Elementary (Adaptable activities for Grades K - 5)

Standards:

21st Century Learning Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Collaboration
- Self-Direction
- Invention

Colorado Academic Standards:

Visual Arts

- Observe and Learn to Comprehend
- Envision and Critique to Reflect
- Invent and Discover to Create
- Relate and Connect to Transfer

Language Arts

- Oral Expression and Listening
- Reading for All Purposes

Essential Question(s):

- *What is my favorite thing to do while creating art?*
- *What do I love about art?*
- *How do I use art in my everyday life?*
- *What problem solving skills do I need to create art?*

Rationale:

Creating artwork in the styles of masters will increase student understanding of the creative flexibility of artists and ideas. Designing and participating in a mock cow parade for the classroom, grade level or school will increase students' understanding of the creative steps and fun that go into planning and executing events and exhibitions.

Objectives:

Students will:

- learn about public art through an examination of The Denver Cow Parade
- examine the sculpture *Fifty Moo Eighty* by artist Jen Thario and find visual clues relating to Denver and beyond
- learn about and create a cow-themed artwork in the style of famous artists
- design and create a classroom gallery and cow parade, incorporating a variety of related features such as cow masks, cow-themed mixed media modern art pieces, including costumes and parade floats as desired.

Materials:

- *The Art and the Artist* sheet on *Fifty Moo Eighty* (found at the end of this lesson plan)
- The ability to project the image of *Fifty Moo Eighty* onto a wall or screen, or one color copy for every 3–5 students
- Assorted art materials and mixed media:
 - scissors, glue, pencils, erasers, crayons, markers, stamps and inks, glitter, string, rubber bands, yarn, brads, masking and duct tape
 - Various paints and paintbrushes
 - Additional mixed media supplies for creating parade floats, costumes and props: poster board, cardboard boxes in a variety of sizes, construction paper, cloth, etc)
 - Assorted papers: collage and tissue papers, drawing and scrapbooking papers, etc
- Paper plates
- Student Worksheet PDFs: Print on card stock a number of copies, allowing students to make selections
 - *Cows Coloring Pages*
 - *Pi-Cow-So Parade Artist Coloring Pages*
- Reference Worksheet PDFs:
 - Paper Plate Cow Mask
 - Pi-Cow-So Parade Artist Info Sheets (project on a wall or screen, distribute, or display in an accessible location)

Duration:

(One – three) 50 minute lessons, depending on the choice of classroom activities.

Vocabulary:

- *Public art*: art in any media that has been designed for and sited in a space accessible to the general public, from a public square to a wall inside a building open to the public.
 - Also an umbrella term which includes any work of art purchased with public funds or which enters the public domain
- *Montage*: the process or technique of selecting, editing, and piecing together separate sections of pictures, film, text and/or music to form a continuous whole
- *Modern Art*: art that was produced in the late 1860s through the 1970s and that rejected traditionally accepted forms and emphasized individual experimentation and sensibility. Modern art embraces a wide variety of movements in an effort to create an art more in keeping with changed social, economic, and intellectual conditions. Movements associated with Modern Art include Cubism, Surrealism, Futurism, Color Field, Pop Art and Op Art.
- *Abstract*:
 - existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence:
 - *abstract concepts such as love or beauty.*
 - dealing with ideas rather than events:
 - *the novel was too abstract and esoteric to sustain much attention.*
 - not based on a particular instance; theoretical:
 - *we have been discussing the problem in a very abstract manner.*
 - denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object:
 - *abstract words like truth or equality.*
 - of or relating to abstract art:
 - *abstract pictures that look like commercial color charts.*

- *Representational (or Objective)*: A work of art that is created to look like a particular place, thing or person
- *Non-representational (or Non-objective)*: A work of art that does not represent or depict a being, place or object in the natural world

Lesson :

- **Preparation:** On a wall or screen, project images of CowParade Denver
 - http://cowparade.phanfare.com/2482877_2700671#imageID=40466338
- Display or have ready to project *Pi-Cow-So Parade Artist Info Sheets*
- Print Student and Reference Worksheets
- Assemble materials
- **Warm-up:** Ask students: *What is public art?*
 - Explain that it is a work of art specifically designed for and installed in a public space, like a park or a light rail station. Ask students to give some examples of public art.
 - Introduce students to CowParade as you scroll through some of the photos of CowParade Denver :
 - **CowParade is the largest and most successful public art event in the world.**
 - CowParade events have been staged in 79 cities worldwide since 1999, starting in Chicago.
 - It is estimated that over 250 million people around the world have seen one of the famous painted cows.
 - Over \$30 million has been raised through worldwide charitable organizations through the auction of the cows, which takes place at the conclusion of each event.
 - Over 10,000 artists worldwide have participated in CowParade – professional and amateur, famous and emerging, young and old.
 - Over 5,000 cows have been created!
 - Denver hosted CowParade in 2006. This citywide public art project featured 100 cows created by local artists.

1. Show and discuss *Fifty-Moo-Eighty*, by artist Jen Thario.

- Jen Thario is a mixed media artist who has been creating objects since she was old enough to hold a glue bottle. Her artwork was featured on two cows along the 16th Street Mall as part of Denver’s Cow Parade.
- The title “Fifty Moo Eighty” is a play on Denver’s Mile High altitude of 5280 feet.
- It took approximately 65 hours to create this piece.
- “Fifty-Moo-Eighty” features a wrap-around view of the Denver skyline.
 - On the left side the design features the view of downtown looking east. Highlights include Coors Field, Union Station, the D & F Tower, Convention Center, Civic Center Park and museums.
 - On the right side of the cow is the view of the downtown skyline looking west. With a backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, this design features Denver’s vintage central neighborhoods, the Philip Johnson building, and City Park. The South Platte is shown flowing through on both sides of the cow.
- If students are able to view the sculpture directly in the MAG exhibit, ask them to identify aspects of Denver they recognize. Can they find Coors Field? City Park? etc.

2. If students could create a cow for a Cow Parade at your school, how would they choose to decorate their cows?

- Just let students brainstorm their ideas. Would they create a cow to symbolize something meaningful to them? Would they decorate a cow in the style of an artist they admire? Would they select a theme? A location? An event?

3. Introduce students to a variety of artists and their work. Use Reference PDF *Pi-Cow-So Parade Artist Info Sheet*.

- Display, project or distribute the *Artist Info Sheet* so that students have easy access to the images and information.
- Explain that Modern Art was produced in the late 1860s through the 1970s. Artists rejected tradition and emphasized individual experimentation and sensibility.
- Question students about the artwork they see. What observations can they make about some of the artwork? What jumps out at them? Color? Shape? Abstraction? Do they have a favorite art work among the collection of images?

4. Explain to the class that they will be designing cows and creating a Cow Parade gallery for their classroom (or school event).

- Distribute materials and student worksheets for themed activities:
- **Grades**
 - K - 1: cow masks (students create paper plate cow masks)
 - 2 - 3: fine artists coloring pages (students color pages in the style of famous artists)
 - 4 - 5: mixed media cows and parades (students design and create mixed media cows)
- When activities are completed, ask students to help create displays for the finished artwork, with the title **Pi-Cow-So Parade**.

5. Explain to the class that they will be creating a Cow Parade for their classroom (or school event).

- Ask students to describe a parade they have attended. What was the purpose of the parade? Where did it take place? When was it? Who participated in the parade? Who attended? Were there floats? Were there animals in the parade?
- Explain that they will create a Cow Parade, using cow art they have made, and creating additional parade objects as desired, including costumes, props and floats. Have them brainstorm parade plans. When will they have it? Where will it take place? Who will



participate? Who will they invite? Will they “market” the parade to potential attendees? — create parade posters? Invitations?

- Students will continue with parade planning and completing art activities.

- If desired, divide students into groups with specific parade functions: planning and organizing, building floats, creating costumes and props, invitations and publicity, etc.

- On **Pi-Cow-So Parade Day**, students will hold the parade.

They may decide on holding the

parade in the classroom, in the halls, on school grounds. If they coordinate with the opening reception of the Mobile Art Gallery, they will want to invite family, friends and other community partners.

The Art and the Artist



Fifty Moo Eighty

Jen Thario

Cow Parade Denver Artist

Artist Statement

"Every day I wake up and think, I'd rather make something than do the dishes."

"My current work explores elements of pop art and object inspired by the urban environment, with an emphasis on the rhythm of the human form. The images I create are not literal, but rather function as a memory, compressed and rearranged. My cityscapes focus on scale, sense of place and intertwining multiple perspectives into a graphic composition. My painting style is best described as funky, cartoonish and maybe even a bit sarcastic. I am a Colorado native and I live and work in downtown Denver. More information and a large portfolio of my work is available on my website www.artchicken.com."

Jen Thario is a mixed media artist who has been creating objects since she was old enough to hold a glue bottle. Jen's artwork was featured on two cows along the 16th Street Mall as part of Denver's Cow Parade. This citywide public art project featured 100 cows created by local artists 7/20 - 10/30/06. "Fifty-Moo-Eighty" features a wrap-around view of the Denver skyline. On the left side the design features the view of downtown looking east. Highlights include Coors Field, Union Station, the D & F Tower, Convention Center, Civic Center Park and museums. On the right side of the

cow is the view of the downtown skyline looking west. With a backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, this design features Denver's vintage central neighborhoods, the Philip Johnson building, and City Park. The South Platte is shown flowing through on both sides of the cow. The title "Fifty Moo Eighty" is a play on the Mile High altitude of 5280 feet. It took approximately 65 hours to create this piece.

Provided through the generous support of Janus

Additional Resources

Link to the CowParade Denver gallery on the CowParade Worldwide site:

http://cowparade.phanfare.com/2482877_2700671#imageID=40466338

Pi-Cow-So Parade

Images

Picasso — Pi-cow-so

1881 - 1973

Pablo Picasso is probably the most important figure of 20th century art. Before the age of 50, the Spanish born artist had become the most well-known name in modern art, with a most distinct style and eye for artistic creation.

Although his art career spanned over a seven-decade period, Pablo Picasso is most known for his introduction of cubism, and his modern approach to abstract painting. Not only was his art well ahead of his time, but the works he created went on to influence artists and painters down the line, for a period of more than 50 years. His work still influences the styles of many artists today.

Girl Before Mirror



Dora Maar with Cat



Three Musicians



The Studio



Monet

Water Lilies



Monet — Moo-net

1840 - 1926

Oscar-Claude Monet (1840-1926) is a famous French painter and one of the founders of the Impressionism movement along with his friends Renoir, Sisley and Bazille.

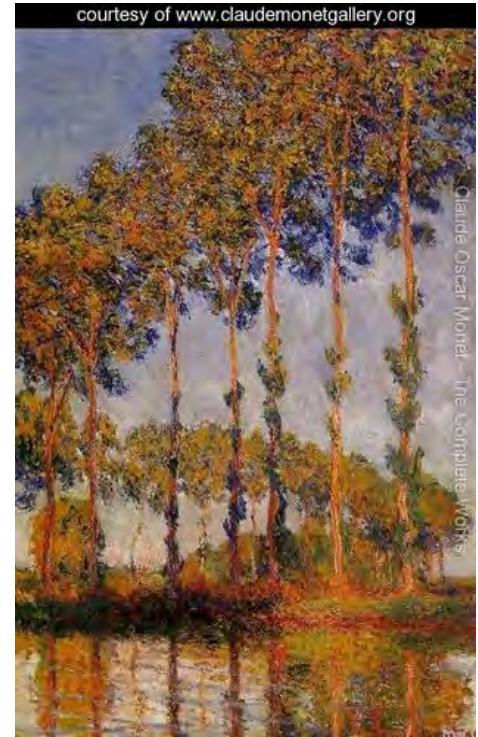
Monet rejected the traditional approach to landscape painting and instead of copying old masters, he learned from his friends and from nature itself. Monet loved light, and he observed and painted the variations of color and light caused by daily or seasonal changes.

courtesy of www.claudemonetgallery.org

Water Lilies 13



A Row of Poplars



Modigliani — Moo-digliani

1884 - 1920

Amedeo Clemente Modigliani was an Italian painter and sculptor who worked mainly in France. He is known for portraits and nudes in a modern style characterized by elongation of faces and figures.

Girl in a Yellow Dress



Portrait of a Woman with Hat

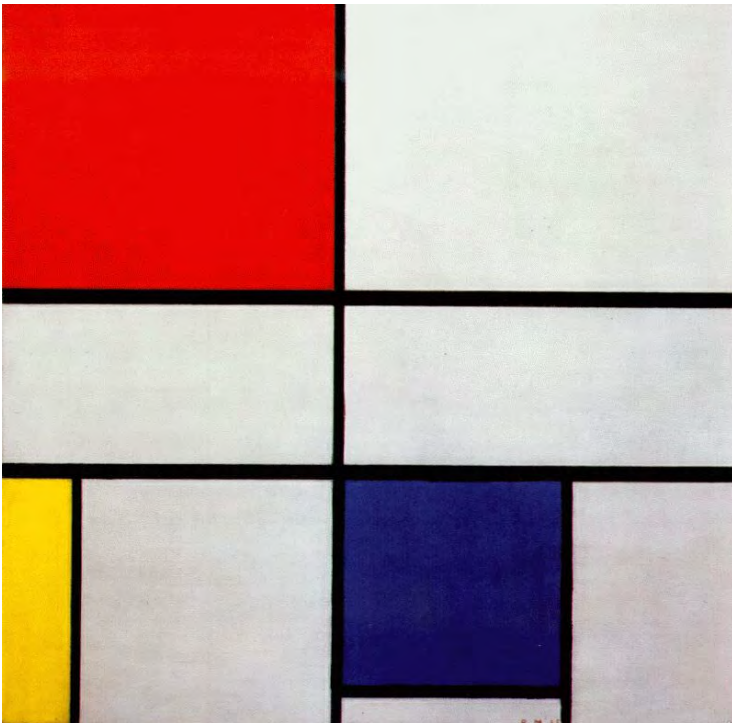


Piet Mondrian — Moo-ndrian

1872 - 1944

Piet Mondrian is recognized for the purity of his abstract paintings. In his best known paintings from the 1920s, Mondrian reduced his shapes to lines and rectangles and his range of colors to the basics, pushing past references to the outside world toward pure abstraction. His work was crucial in the development of modern art, and his iconic abstract works remain influential in design and familiar in popular culture to this day.

Composition C, 1935



Blue Facade, 1914



Vincent van Gogh — Vincent Van Calf

1853 - 1890

Vincent van Gogh was a Post-Impressionist painter of Dutch origin whose work—notable for its rough beauty, emotional honesty, and bold color—had a far-reaching influence on 20th-century art.

One of Van Gogh's dreams as an artist was to start a colony for artists in Arles in the south of France. Vincent moved to Arles where he was joined by Gauguin. While there, Van Gogh entered the most productive and creative period of his life, painting famous works such as *Sunflowers* and *Starry Night*.

In just ten years, Van Gogh produced over 900 paintings. Never fully appreciated in his own time, it wouldn't take long for the art world to recognize genius. Within twenty years of his death in 1890, there were memorial shows of his works all over the world – influencing generations of artists to come.

Starry Night



Still Life: Vase with Twelve Sunflowers



Salvador Dali — Cow-lvador Dali

1904 –1989

Born in Spain in 1904, **Salvador Dali** is known for his technical skill as a painter and the shocking quality of his imagination. As a child, Dali attended drawing school and by the age of thirteen, Dali's father was arranging exhibitions of his charcoal drawings.

Dali consistently depicted the landscape of his homeland, one that became synonymous with the landscape of the imagination and of dreams. In his long career he forged a remarkable body of work, and his life demonstrates the richness of living creatively in every aspect of one's existence. With his handlebar mustache, a pioneering spirit and wildly eccentric behavior, Dali is easily the most famous surrealist artist.

The Persistence of Memory



The Burning Giraffe



Elephants



Mark Rothko — Mark Rothcow

1903 - 1970

A prominent figure among the New York School painters, Mark Rothko moved through many artistic styles until reaching his signature 1950s motif of soft, rectangular forms floating on a stained field of color. Heavily influenced by mythology and philosophy, he was insistent that his art was filled with content, and brimming with ideas. His search for new forms of expression led to his Color Field paintings, which employed shimmering color to convey a sense of spirituality. With Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, he is one of the most famous postwar (WWII) American artists.

Orange and Yellow





Mark Rothko Untitled (Yellow, Red and Blue)

Leonardo da Vinci — Leonardo cow Vinci

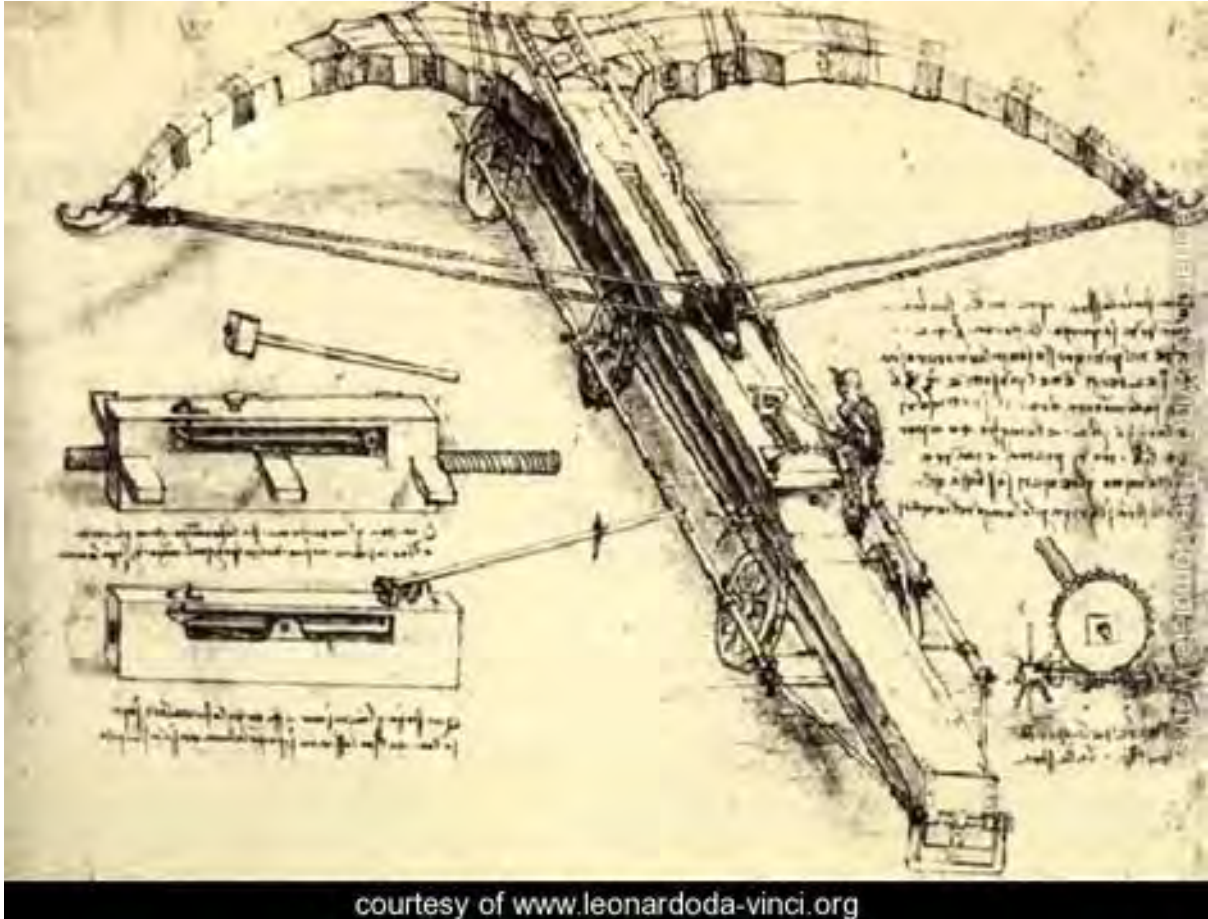
1452 - 1519

Da Vinci has been called a genius and the archetypal Renaissance man. His talents inarguably extended far beyond his artistic works. Like many leaders of Renaissance humanism, he did not see a divide between science and art. His observations and inventions were recorded in 13,000 pages of notes and drawings, including designs for flying machines (some 400 years before the Wright brothers' first success), plant studies, war machinery, anatomy and architecture.

Mona Lisa — Moo-na Lisa



Giant Crossbow



courtesy of www.leonardoda-vinci.org

Wassily Kandinsky — Cowdinsky

1866 - 1944

Russian-born painter Wassily Kandinsky, one of the founders of pure abstraction in painting, is credited as a leader in 20th Century avant-garde art.

A trained musician, Kandinsky approached color with a musician's sensibility. An obsession with Monet led him to explore his own creative concepts of color on canvas.

Kandinsky was a lawyer, but left the law to study art. In addition to being an artist, he was a professor, poet and playwright.

Improvisation 28 (second version)



Color Study. Squares with Concentric Circles



Painting with Green Center



Yellow-Red-Blue



Frida Kahlo — Frida Cowlo

(1907 – 1954)

Frida Kahlo de Rivera was a Mexican painter. Kahlo's work is remembered for its "pain and passion", and its intense, vibrant colors. Her work has been celebrated in Mexico as emblematic of national and indigenous tradition, and by feminists for its uncompromising depiction of the female experience and form.

Kahlo suffered lifelong health problems, many of which stemmed from a traffic accident in her teenage years. These issues are reflected in her works, more than half of which are self-portraits of one sort or another. Kahlo suggested, "I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best."

Self Portrait with Bonito



Flower of Life



Pi-Cow-So Parade Coloring Pages

Picasso

Girl Before Mirror



Picasso

Dora Maar with Cat



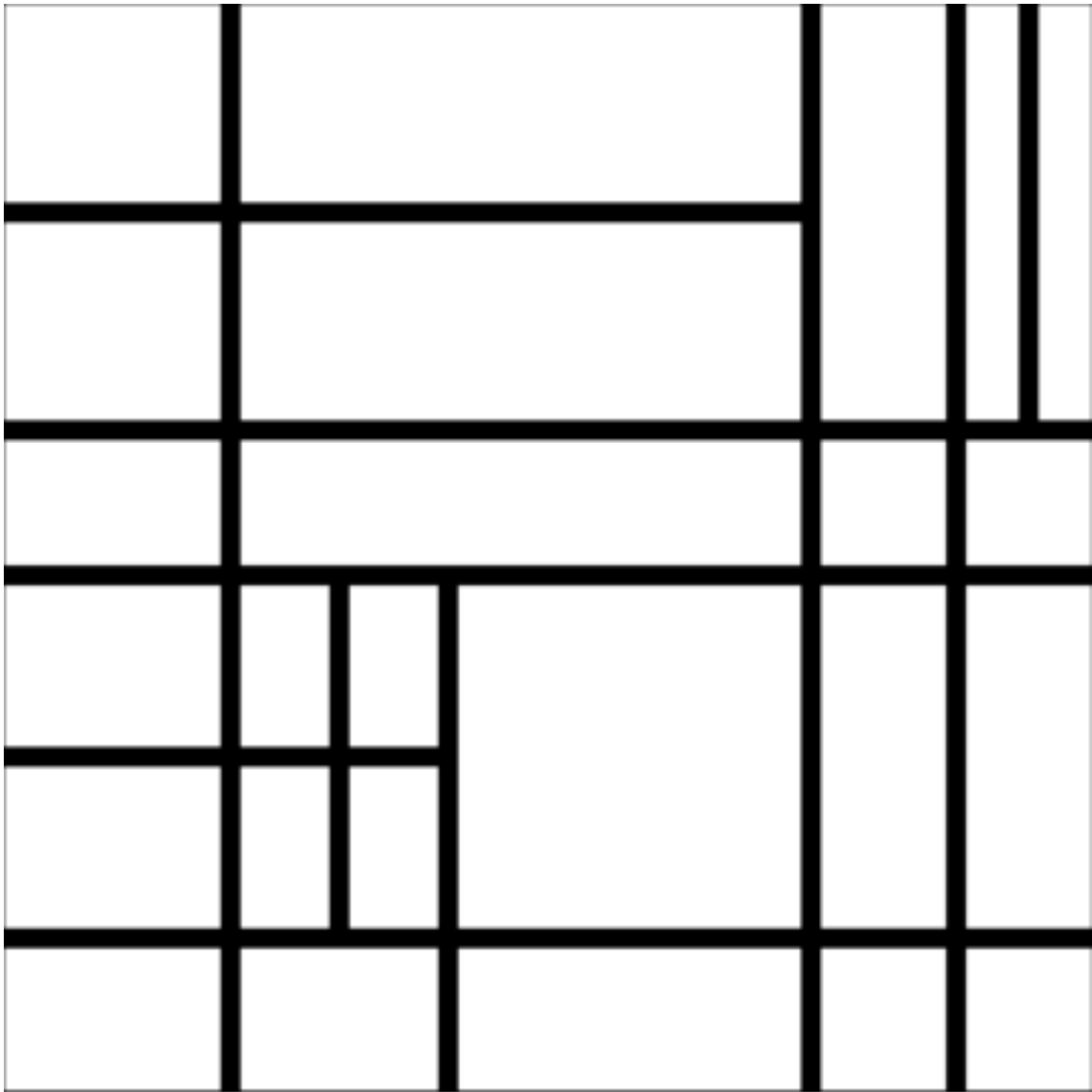
Monet

Water Lilies



Mondrian

Composition



Van Gogh

Starry Night



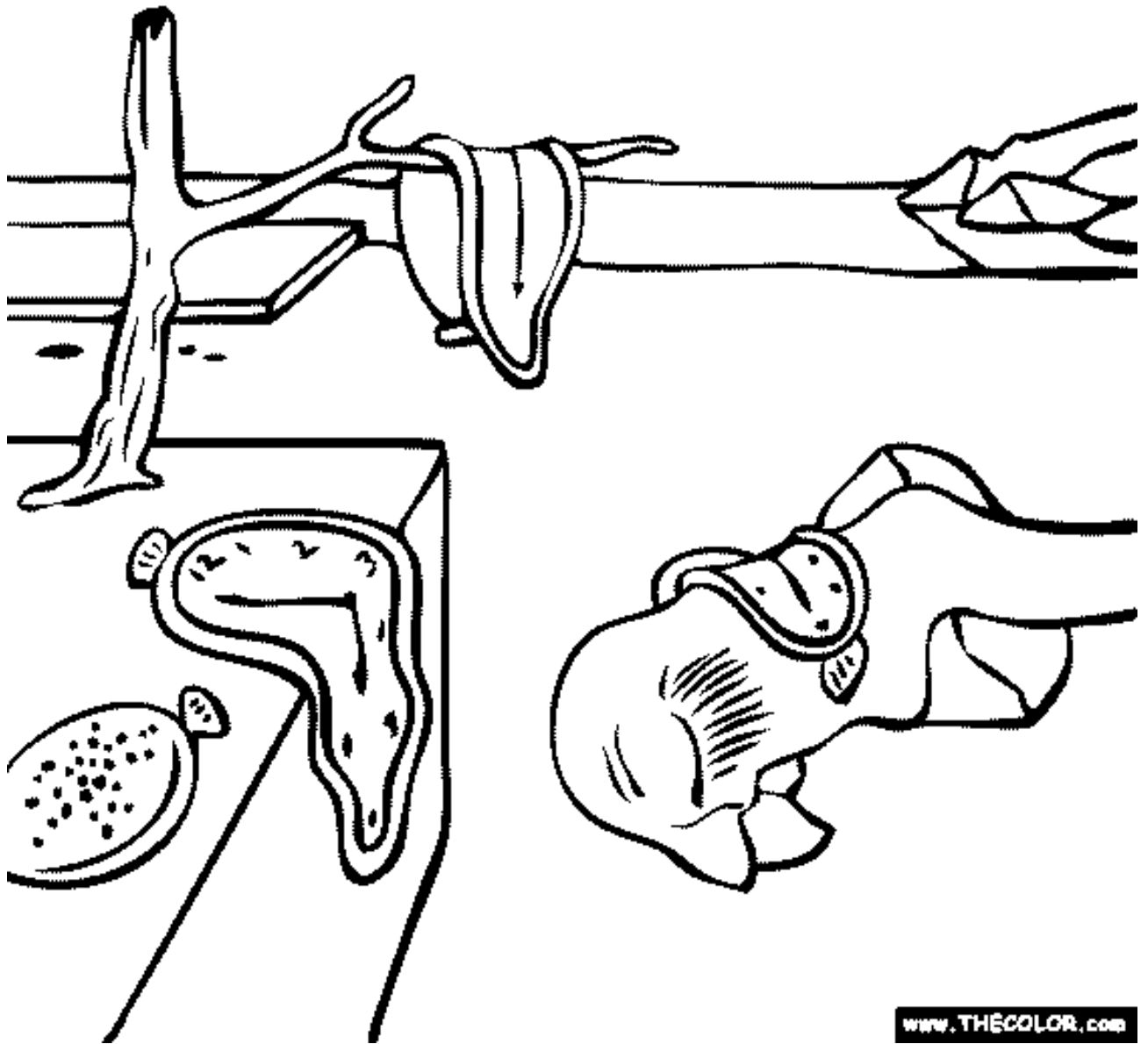
Van Gogh

Sunflowers



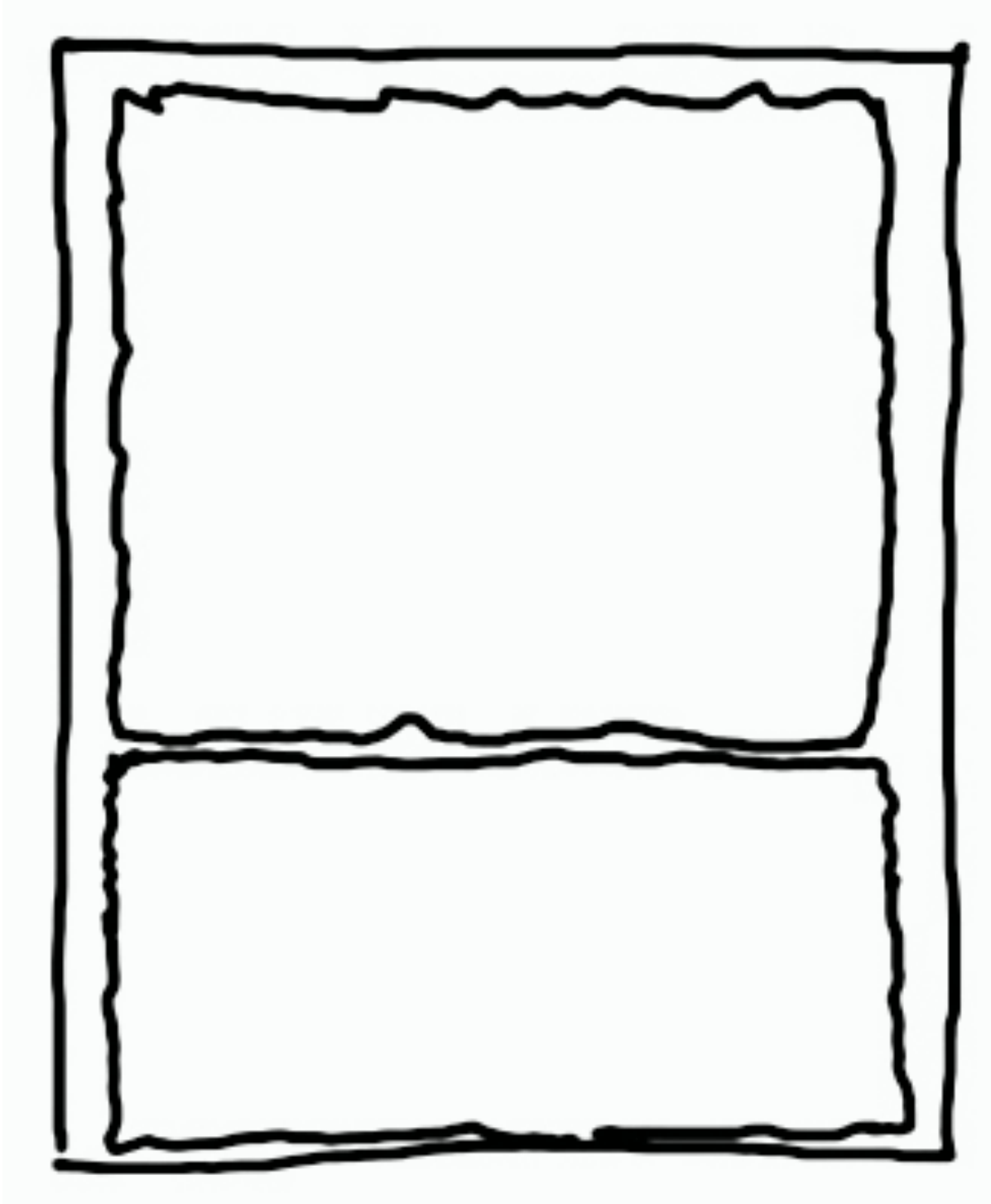
Dali

The Persistence of Memory



Rothko

Orange and Yellow

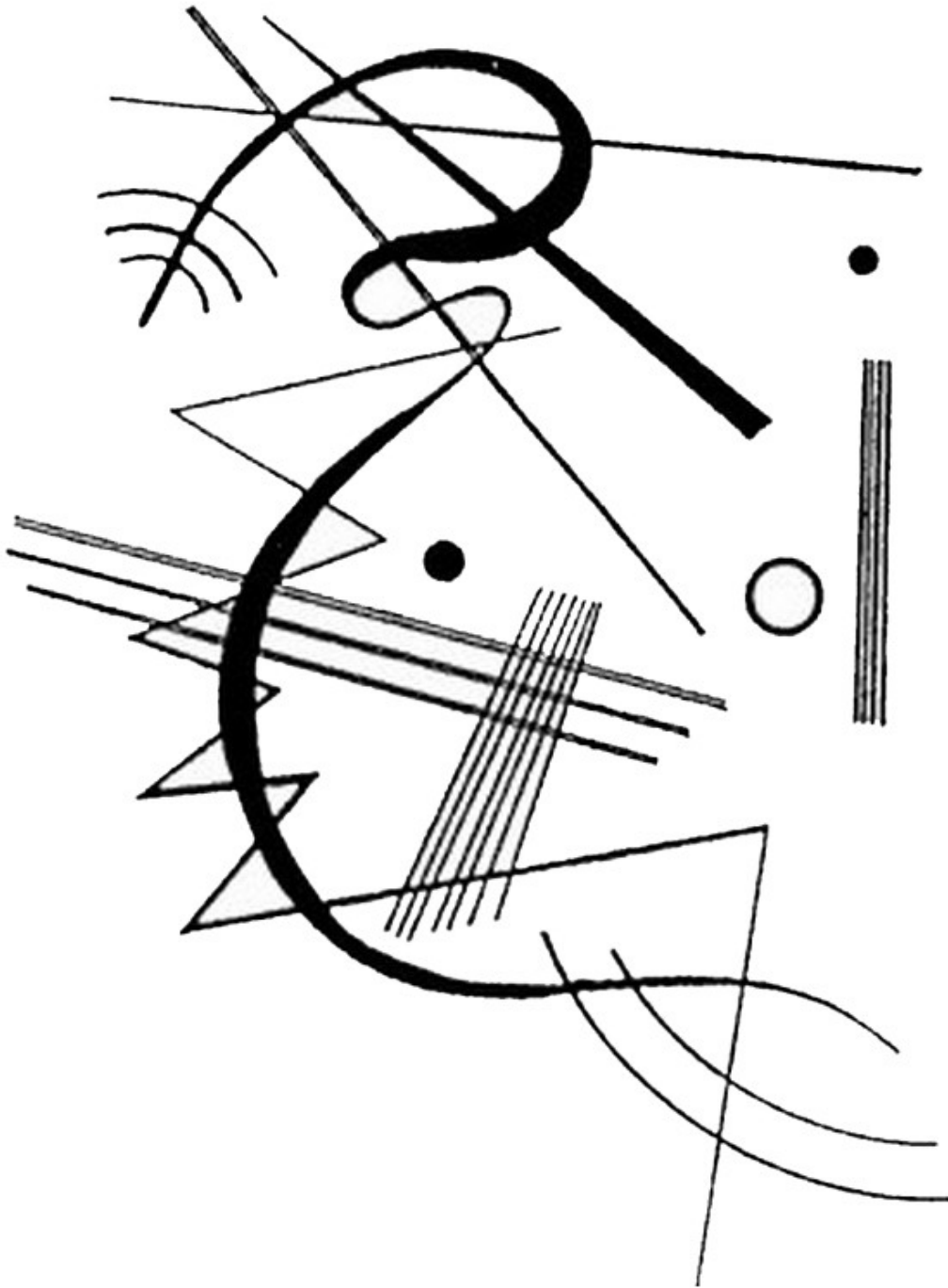


da Vinci

Mona Lisa



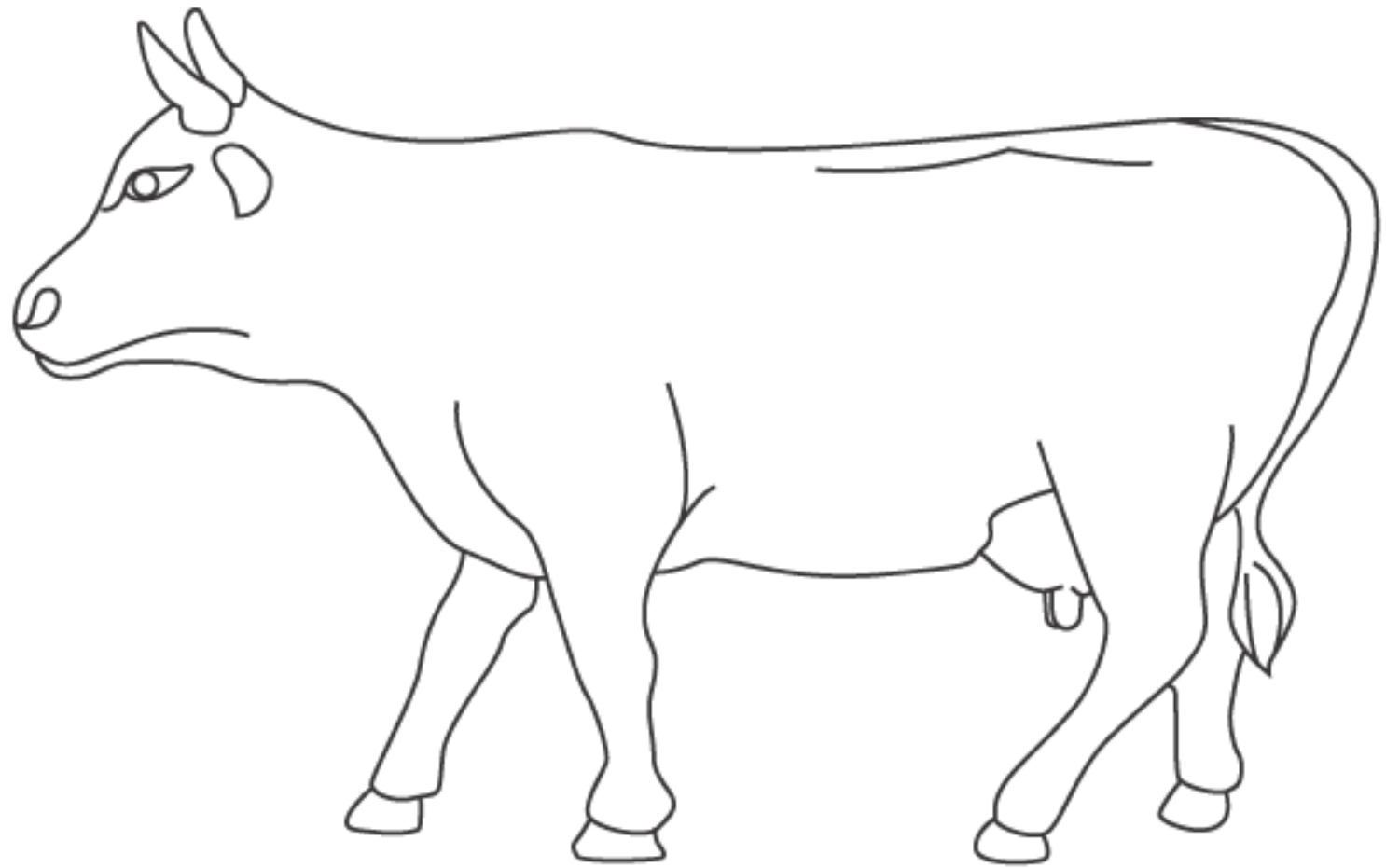
Kandinsky

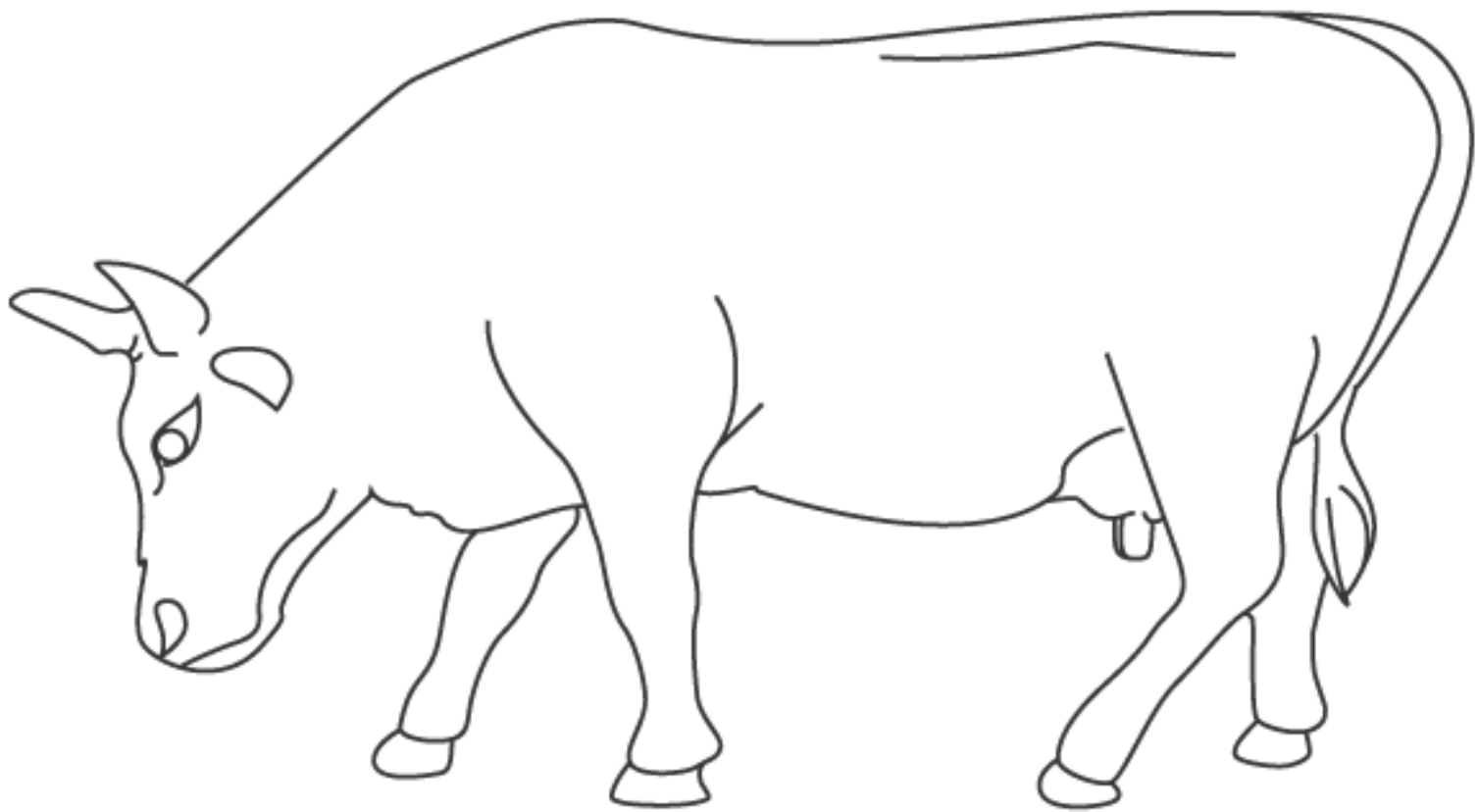


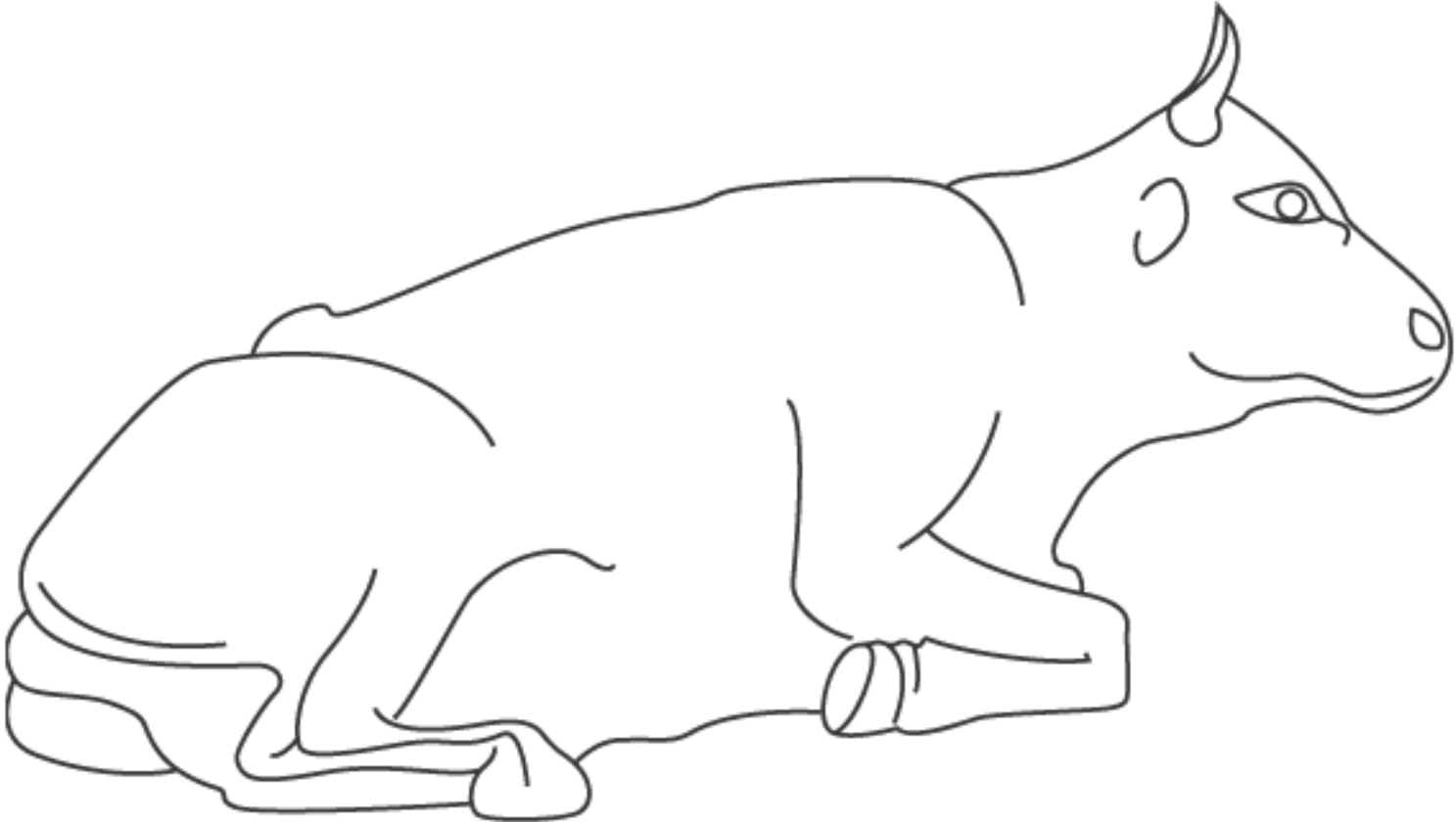
Frida Kahlo

Self Portrait with Bonito









Paper Plate Cow Mask





Materials:

- paints and paintbrushes
- paper plates
- scissors
- glue
- pencils and paper
- large rubber bands
- hole punch
- pipe cleaners (whiskers)
- paper towels for clean-up
- FOR MASK: paint stir stick, thin strip of wood or tongue depressor
- Optional: You can substitute large wiggly eyes for the template eyes