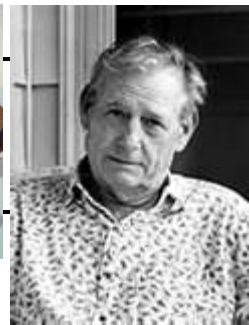

Cakes (1963) by Wayne Thiebaud

Activity: Texture & Repetition Sponge Painting

Keywords: Pastel, Realistic, Repetition, Still Life, Texture, Pop-Art



Meet the Artist:

- Born in Mesa, Arizona in 1920.
 - Started career as a cartoonist for Disney at the age of Sixteen!
 - Known for his depictions of baked goods which launched his career in the early 1960's as one of the best known Pop Artists.
 - He was also a wonderful teacher and in 1981 the College Art Association names him the most distinguished studio teacher of the year.
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Possible Questions:

- Does anyone know what "Pop art" is? (realistic everyday images) He likes to paint food.
 - How does the line lead our eye in the painting?
 - What would happen if you painted different colors?
 - How do the colors make you feel?
 - Can you see shadows?
 - If you were an artist, what type of food would you paint?
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Vocabulary:

- Pastel - any of various pale or light colors.
 - Realistic - the true appearance of people, objects or scenes as seen by the human eye. Realistic art attempts to re-create the colors, textures, shapes and arrangements of actual objects.
 - Repetition - a design that has parts that are used over and over again in a pleasing way.
 - Still Life - a drawing or painting of an arrangement of non-moving, non-living objects such as fruit, flowers, bottles, etc. The arrangement is usually set indoors and includes at least one manufactured object, such as a bowl or vase.
 - Texture - an element of art. The way an object looks as though it feels, such as rough or smooth.
 - Pop-Art - Style of art made popular in late 1950's early 1960's. Much of it represented images of common commercial images and objects.
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Activity: Stamping with Sponges

Supplies:

Brushes (Larger)

Sponges....different shapes

Clothes Pins (optional - to hold sponges)

Drawing Paper

Paper plates

Paper towels (bring from home if possible - schools are not great! ☺)

Tempera paints (Multi-colors: Red, Yellow, Brown, Blue, White)

Newspapers or other covers for desks

Project Description: You may want to have different areas set up around the classroom for the different colors.

1. They will be using **PASTEL** Colors, as he did, so before starting the lesson pour white paint into paperplates. Add small amounts of red, yellow, green and brown and mix to make light pink yellow, green and tan. Don't make the paints too deep. You may want to show this to them and explain **PASTEL** colors here.
2. Have students put their names on the papers before starting.
3. Instruct students that they will be creating a "Masterpiece" in the style of Wayne Thiebaud. Each student will be choosing **one** foam sponge. They will be creating a picture with this one sponge on their paper, as they **REPEAT** the shape several times on their paper (be sure they do not repeat too many times that the shape becomes unrecognizable!), and may use different colors as long as they rinse out & dry off the sponge in between changing out colors. Point out to the students how the sponge painting gives the painting **TEXTURE**. You can use examples around the classroom to illustrate texture such as the carpet or tile or their clothing etc... Point out these features in *Cakes*.
4. Have the Students go over to the sink and dampen the sponges they choose for their Masterpiece.
5. Dip sponges lightly in the 1st color of paint and blot them on scrap paper or paper towels to blot the excess before stamping the sponge on the paper.
6. Rinse completely before changing colors - remembering to keep the same shape! Repeat steps 5 & 6 for as many colors as desired.
7. Please ensure that sponges are completely rinsed and placed in a plastic bag in the bin when project is completed.
8. Adhere Parent Letters to back of "Masterpieces" and display as desired by teacher.
9. Please sign the Lesson Completed Sheet at the back of the Lesson Binder - Thank You!
10. Have fun be creative!

Top 10 Things you'll want to know about Wayne Thiebaud (Tee-bow)



Wayne Thiebaud, ca. 1985-86

1. Wayne Thiebaud was born in 1920 in Mesa, Arizona. He moved with his family to Long Beach, California, at age nine.
2. Thiebaud grew up during the Great Depression. He was a boy scout and worked in restaurants.
3. In high school he played basketball. He took art classes and started drawing cartoons. He also worked on stage sets for theater productions. Perhaps this experience with stage lighting gave him the idea to put bright light in his paintings.

4. As a teenager Thiebaud held several jobs, making posters for a movie theater and painting signs. One summer Thiebaud worked in the animation department at the Walt Disney Studios. He drew the "in-between frames" (drawings positioned between key changes in movement in order to make animation play smooth) for such cartoons as Goofy and Pinocchio.
5. In the 1940s, Thiebaud went to junior college and then served in the Army as an artist and cartoonist. He married and settled in Los Angeles and worked as a commercial artist and illustrator. At age twenty-nine he went back to college and received degrees in art, art history, and education. He began teaching art to college students and decided to become a serious painter himself.



Wayne Thiebaud drawing Aleck cartoons, 1943

machines, and deli counters painted with thick paint in bright colors—were exhibited in New York. They were a big hit! Though some scholars called Thiebaud a Pop artist because he painted popular consumer goods, he said he painted them out of nostalgia; they reminded him of his boyhood and the best of America.



Wayne Thiebaud,
Pies, Pies, Pies, 1961



Wayne Thiebaud,
Study of Cakes, c.
1965



Wayne Thiebaud,
Suckers (State II),
published 1968



Wayne Thiebaud,
Three Machines, 1963

7. Thiebaud explained:

"My subject matter was a genuine sort of experience that came out of my life, particularly the American world in which I was privileged to be I would really think of the bakery counters, of the way the counter was lit, where the pies were placed, but I wanted just a piece of the experience. From when I worked in restaurants . . . [it was] always poetic to me."

8. Thiebaud painted things other than food. He made still lifes of neckties, eyeglasses, lipsticks, even cows and dogs. He also painted large portraits of human figures, applying thick paint in bright colors against stark white backgrounds.



Wayne Thiebaud,
Eight Lipsticks, 1988



Wayne Thiebaud,
Steep Street,



Wayne Thiebaud,
Three Cows, 1991



Wayne Thiebaud,
Man Sitting - Back

1989

View, 1964

9. Thiebaud went on to paint cityscapes—from the steep hills of San Francisco to the colorful landscapes of the Sacramento Valley in California.
10. Wayne Thiebaud retired from full-time teaching in 1990. He lives in Northern California and continues to paint.

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