
Art Masterpiece: *Pop Shop Quad I**, by Keith Haring

Keywords: Line, Shape, Color, and Movement

Grade(s): 4th – 6th

Activity: Figure in motion with tempera paints

**Most of Keith Haring's artwork can be substituted for this print.*



Meet the Artist:

- Keith Haring was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1958.
- At age 18, Haring studied graphic design at a commercial and fine art school in Pittsburgh. At age 19, he moved to New York City where he was inspired by graffiti art and studied at the School of Visual Arts.
- Haring's art career began in an unusual place; the New York City subway. He was on the subway platform when he saw an empty black panel used to cover up old ads. Haring bought white chalk and started drawing whimsical images of babies and barking dogs. No one erased or covered them up. The "Radiant Baby" became his symbol.



- Haring's bold lines, vivid colors, and active figures carry strong messages of life and unity. The figures can be cruel and tragic, as well as playful and happy, and can be interpreted in a number of ways such as truthful or as a comical remark on modern society.
- During the 1980's, Haring became good friends with other emerging artists and singers such as Madonna, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Nick Rhodes of *Duran Duran*, and artist Andy Warhol. Haring designed a jacket worn by Madonna, painted a music set on MTV for Nick Rhodes, designed watches and the cover for the benefit album *A Very Special Christmas* and a wine label.
- During his short life, Haring was commissioned to paint murals and sculpture installations throughout the world. His work is still widely recognized and appreciated by many people from all over.

Key Concepts:

- Lines are the basis of all images as they define and outline all shapes
- Lines in art are used to show emotion, texture, movement and direction.
- Draw different types of lines on dry erase board and talk about what they indicate:

Vertical and straight lines show strength, power, height, beginning and end points, up or down direction

Horizontal lines show calmness, quiet, growth, perspective, separation of earth and sky, left or right direction

Spiral or wavy lines show movement, flowing, lightness, playful, happy, dancing, gyrations

Zigzag lines show confusion, anger, frustration, rigidness

Possible Questions:

- What does this painting show?
- How does Haring show movement and energy? (The radiating lines around his figures.)
- Can you tell where the movement is? What things are moving?
- Where do you see curved lines?
- Where do you see straight lines?

- Which picture shows the most movement?
- Are these happy pictures? What makes you think that?
- What do you think the artist was trying to say through this picture?

Project: To create a painting of a simple figure in motion using tempera paint.

Materials:

- Sharpened pencils and erasers, one per student
- 9" X 12" white card stock paper, one per student
- Bright tempera paint*
- Paintbrushes, one per student
- Cups for water, at least one per three students
- Disposable plates (or plastic palettes), two or three students can share one
- Paper towels
- Black markers, one per student
- Optional: blow dryers and power strips

*alternate media: Tempera cakes

Process:

1. Give each student one sheet of 9x12 card stock paper.
2. With their pencil, have the students lightly draw a simple person or persons doing an activity (jumping, running, dancing, etc...).
3. Draw only the outlines of the subjects (Haring's "people" had little detail).
4. Encourage the addition of "Haring-style" objects and "motion" lines.
5. Next, have the students add color to their drawings with the tempera paint.
6. Once the tempera has dried enough, outline the main objects in the painting with the black markers.
7. You can use blow dryers to help facilitate the drying, if available.
8. Have the students title their work and sign their name.
9. Hang the artwork to display.

Examples:





Parent Note:

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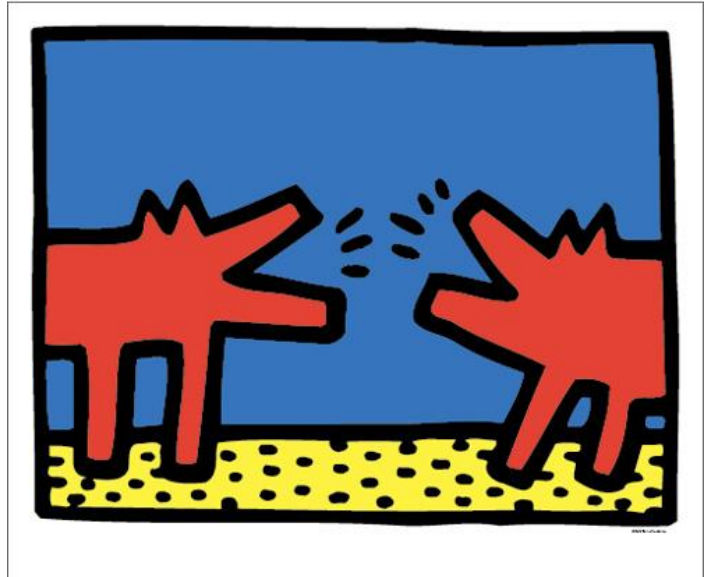
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Miscellaneous:



Keith Haring, 1988



Keith Haring

