

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

ART TOUR OUTLINE

PROGRAM TITLE: General Art Tour **AUDIENCE:** Elementary School Groups

LOCATION: Solari Gallery **TIME ALLOTMENT:** 35 minutes

EXHIBIT: *Latin America Graphics: The Evolution of Identity from the Mythical to the Personal*

THEME: In the Latin American Graphics exhibition artists use **expression** to create a feeling or mood in the artwork. Expressionism is any style of art that emphasizes physical emotion or feelings.

MESSAGES:

1. The look on the **subject's** face can infuse the artwork with an overall **mood**.
 2. **Line and color** are techniques an artist uses to guide the viewer into an emotional response to the work and to emphasize expression.
 3. The overall **style** of the artwork can sometimes give the viewer an indication of the artist's emotional state.
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Materials/Props, Listed in Order of Use:

Drama mask

Find-it cards/clipboards for Latin American Graphics exhibit

Introduction:

What are ways that people can determine our mood? Generally people know our mood by looking at our expression. We can discover the overall mood or feelings in an artwork by looking at the subject's expression.

Action/Prop/Question:

Prop: Drama Mask

(use a drama mask showing dual expressions – one is happy and the other is sad). Show students the mask. *What is the expression on this side of the mask, the other side? How do we know the one side is happy* (smiling, mouth upturned, lifted eyebrows, expressive eyes). *How can we tell the other side is sad?* (frown, sullen eyes).

Sample Dialogue:

Location - Luis Cruz Azaceta, *Head in a Boat*, 1989

How do you feel when you look at this piece? What did the artist do in this piece to make you feel that way? (messages 1,3)

Name the three most dominant colors in this piece? Do the colors match the mood of the piece (anger)? (message 2)

Do you think that it took this artist a long or short time to make this artwork? Why do you say that? Luis Cruz Azaceta used a technique called monotype print. It takes a steady hand and does not leave much room for error to create a monotype – it is generally a fast process. (message 3)

Are there certain elements of the piece that might suggest that he worked quickly (look at the lines). (message 2)

What if you took the head out of the piece (have students put a hand in front of their face to block the head out of the print)? How would taking the subject out change or effect the mood of the piece? (messages 1, 3)

The artist put himself in many of his paintings. Let's say this figure is Luis. *What do you suppose was his mood while creating this piece? Luis once shared that man's inhumanity or meanness towards others caused him to be angry and sad. Knowing this, let's make up a story about what might have led Luis to make, "Head in a Boat."* One day Luis was on his way to his studio when...
(messages 1, 3)

Closing Thoughts:

Through carefully looking at works of art, focusing particularly on the subject's expression, we have discovered that expression can really set the mood for the piece. We can also discover the artist's own mood or feeling.

- *After looking at their work, do you think these artists were compassionate or caring people? What makes you say that? These artists seem to really care about people's emotions and feelings. We generally refer to these people as compassionate.*
- *If you could create a print, what would your subject be doing that would tell the viewer about you? What expression would you use? Background? Color?*
- *Does your own mood change when you looking at a sad painting, happy painting, angry painting? How so?*