

Studio Saturdays: Geometric Masks

Rollins
Museum
of Art

Lonesome George by Juan Travieso



Juan Travieso

Lonesome George

2013

Oil and acrylic on canvas

LIST OF MATERIALS

- 3 Half Sheets of paper (different colors)
- A Pencil
- Scissors
- A Glue Stick
- 12-inch strand of yarn (cut in half)

Juan Travieso is a Cuban artist who combines realism, portraiture, and abstraction to raise awareness for animals' rights and endangered species. Travieso mixes geometric shapes with realistic images to represent how human interference has changed the environment. His artworks usually include a protagonist, a positive character, and an antagonist, a negative character, to tell a story about how the antagonist has impacted the environment of the protagonist.

In Lonesome George, the protagonist is George, the last Pinta Island tortoise, and the antagonists are the goats. Pinta Island tortoises like George became endangered after people brought goats to the island and set them run free to eat all the vegetation, accidentally starving the tortoises. Pinta Island tortoises went extinct after George passed away at the Galapagos National Park. Travieso paints the goats with geometric masks and other elements to show how their introduction to Pinta Island permanently changed the landscape.

For today's craft, we'll be making our own geometric masks inspired by an endangered species using construction paper and string. I'll be modeling my mask after the Florida scrub jay, an endangered species of bird mostly seen close to my home in Southeast Florida, but feel free to choose whichever animal you'd like! Be sure to think about how you can include geometric shapes into your design. For example, I'm going to use geometric triangles to mimic feathers on my mask. how This craft is a great opportunity to learn more about the endangered species in your area, and what you can do to help!

THINK LIKE AN ARTIST

- 1) Which animal did you choose and why?
- 2) How will you include your geometric shapes?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This project is a complete freestyle! You can follow along with me but and make a bird mask but I encourage you to create an idea all your own!
2. Ask your parents to help you research endangered animals and, once you choose one, create a mask that represents that animal. Use your different colored sheets of paper to create geometric shapes and glue them together in layers to add dimension to your mask.
3. Make sure to cut two eye holes so that you can see through it when you wear it.
4. Once your mask is complete, take a scissor, sharp pencil, or hole punch and make two small holes on each side of your mask. As your parents to help with this one!
5. Run a piece of yarn, approximately 12 inches long, through one the hole and make a knot. Do the same with a second piece on the other hole.
6. Now you are ready to wear your mask! Tie the tie strands of yarn behind your head and adjust to fit your face comfortably.