Wednesday, April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. As we are thinking of more ways to lessen the impact we have on this planet, what are some of the materials you have at home that can be reused and recycled into works of art? What kind of art can you make with recyclables?

**Activity 1**

**GET INSPIRED**

Friedrich August von Kaulbach was a German artist who specialized in making portraits. A **portrait** is an image or representation of a person, usually showing their face and part of their body. Portraits often show someone’s mood or personality as well. A **figure** in painting and sculpture refers to the depiction of the human body.
**Take a moment to look closely at this painting.**

- What do you notice about this figure? How might you describe this figure?
- Look at the facial expression and body language. How might she be feeling? What do you think she might be thinking?
- What do you notice about how she's dressed? Based on what she's wearing, what can you tell about this person? Who might she be?
- What do you notice about her pose or the way she is standing?
- Now, try to pose like the figure in the painting. What does the pose tell you about the figure? Who might pose like this?
- What might you title this painting?

**MAKE SOME ART**

The woman in this painting is Rosario Guerrero, a famous performer, dressed in traditional Spanish costume. Take a closer look at the painting. Can you see what she's holding in her hands?

Rosario Guerrero has **castanets** in her hands, an instrument that is used to produce clicks for rhythmic accents or a rattling sound using a series of clicks. Now, let's create your own castanets by recycling materials found around your home.

**You will need...**

- Small strip of cardboard (poster board or a paper plate would work too)
- Markers or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue, glue gun, or tacky glue
- Buttons, coins, metal bottle caps, or metal washers

**Let's get started**

- Cut a strip of cardboard (about 5 inches by 1.5 inches, or small enough to fit in your hand when it's folded). Fold the cardboard in half. If you're using a thinner material, you don't need to crease it too much in order to keep some spring for the material to open and close.
- Now that you have the foundation for your castanet, decorate it with a design using lines, shapes, and colors. Draw it on with markers or colored pencils.
- Glue down one button, coin, metal bottle cap, or metal washer along the inner edge on one side of the cardboard. Now do the same with the other side. They should be facing each other so that when the two sides of the castanet are clapped together, they make a clicking sound.
• Let the glue dry. Then make one more castanet so that you can hold one in each hand and make music! Now, see if you can pose like Rosario Guerrero in the painting and make music with the castanets in your hands. What other poses can you make while holding castanets? Does holding the castanets make you want to dance? If you were a performer, how would you want your portrait to be painted?

• Want to learn more about castanets? Look up music that features castanets online.

Activity 2

GET INSPIRED

This portrait is by another German artist, Franz von Stuck. How is this portrait different than the previous one by Friedrich August von Kaulbach?

Franz von Stuck (German, 1863–1928)
The Artist’s Daughter in Spanish Costume, 1914
Oil on panel
21 x 17 ½ x ½ in.
Founding Collection, Gift of Charles and Emma Frye, 1952:167
Photo: Mark Woods

Take a close look at this painting.

• What’s the first thing you notice in this painting? What drew your eyes?

• Find the brush strokes the artist use to create this painting. Pretend you have a brush in your hand and follow these brush strokes in the painting. How might you move your imaginary brush to create these marks?
• Look at the facial expression and body language. How might she be feeling? What do you think she might be thinking?

• What do you notice about how she’s dressed? Based on what she’s wearing, what can you tell about this person? Who might she be?

• What do you notice about her pose? How might you describe it?

MAKE SOME ART

Now it’s your turn to create a portrait. Whose portrait might you want to create? Would you be showing the entire body or just half of the body like von Stuck’s painting? Would your portrait be 2D or 3D?

Continuing with the theme of using recyclable materials, gather whatever you can find that you think might be interesting to use as part of your portrait.

You will need...

• Recyclables materials and found objects (cereal boxes, bottle caps, plastic lids, bubble wrap, toilet paper rolls, etc.)

• Scissors

• Adhesives (glue, glue gun, tacky glue, tape, twist ties, rubber bands, binder clips, etc.)

Let’s get started

• Now start thinking about creating the head and face in your portrait. What shape might you need to make? Once you have a shape for the head, add in facial features and other details you might need, such as glasses or jewelry. What kind of recyclable materials and/or found objects might you use for these details? Don’t forget to include the neck and shoulders. If you wish, continue to build out the rest of the body to make a portrait of an entire figure.

• If you don’t have an adhesive, feel free to lay out the materials on the ground to create your portrait. Don’t forget to take a picture of your artwork before putting the materials away!

SHARE YOUR WORK

Tell someone about what you learned and the artwork you created. Consider sending a picture of your artwork to someone you haven’t seen in a while and share your answers to these questions with them.

• What is a portrait?

• If you were to ask an artist to make a portrait of you, what would you be doing in your portrait? How would you be dressed? Do you have any family members, pets, or special items that you would want to be included?

• Whose portrait did you create? How did you create it? What did you like the most about it?

• What’s one new thing you can commit to doing to help protect our Earth in the next 21 days?

Don’t forget to share your finished work with us on social media using #FryefromHome!