

VASES LOADED

ART AND SOCIAL STUDIES/LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADES: K-4

BASED ON

The Rookwood Pottery Company (American, estab. 1880, closed 1967); Kitaro Shirayamadani (American, b.1865, d.1948)

VASE, 1909

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Gardner, 2000.142

OBJECTIVES

- Students will create a one of a kind vase inspired by American immigrant artist, Kitaro Shirayamadani
- Students will learn about the history of the Rookwood Pottery Company.
- Students will tell a story using the entire surface for their design.

CONCEPT

Rookwood artists created one of kind pieces of pottery, as opposed to mass produced pieces. Each piece was a work of art, and signed by the designer. Students will design the surface of a vase depicting a scene from Cincinnati, with a visitor from another country.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kitaro Shirayamadani was born in Japan in 1865. He was sent to America by the Japanese government to help promote interest in Japanese trade. He met Maria Longworth Nichols (who established Rookwood Pottery) at the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition in 1886 and was invited to join the Rookwood staff in 1887. Shirayamadani created some of Rookwood's most valued pieces, and became its most famous artist. Unlike other artists, he used the entire vase surface for his designs.

VOCABULARY

Rookwood

Glaze

Immigrant

Heritage

Mass Produced

MATERIALS/PROCEDURE

- Empty plastic containers
- Metallic spray paint
- Paint markers
- Permanent markers
- Pencils
- White paper
- Paint

CLASS EXPERIENCE

1. Students will view works of art by the Rookwood Pottery Company, specifically those decorated by Kitaro Shirayamadani. As students view works, teacher will share the history of this Cincinnati company.
2. Upon completion of their study of Rookwood, students will begin work on their own decorated "vase"
3. Before doing so, students will look at images of Cincinnati from today and from long ago and choose which scene they would like to depict on their vase.
4. Have students will pick a plastic container of their choice
5. Using white paper, have students wrap it around vase to create a template.
6. With pencil, students will sketch out concept on flat paper..
7. They will then copy design onto vase surface, using materials indicated.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

VISUAL ART

Standard 4. Understands the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Standard 5. Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own artwork and the artwork of others

SOCIAL STUDIES

Standard 2. Understands the history of a local community and how communities in North America varied long ago

Standard 3. Understands the people, events, problems, and ideas that were significant in creating the history of their state



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