

Fruit and Vegetable Portraits (Giuseppe Arcimboldo)

Objective: Students will create fruit and vegetable portraits inspired by the work of artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Students will learn that complex forms can be created using simple items.

Materials: Paper Plates, crayons, paint & paint brushes, pencils, construction paper, scissors, glue.

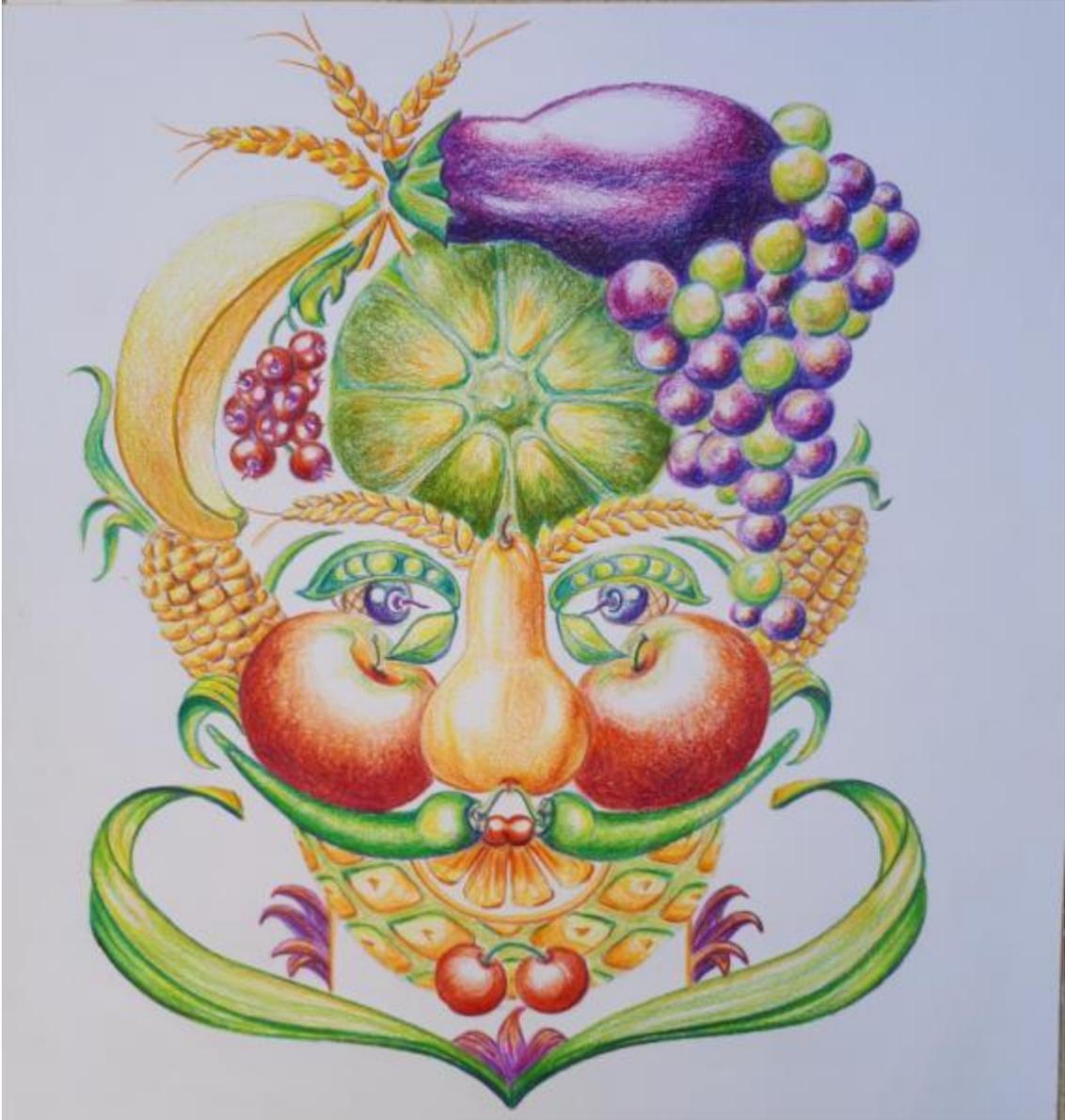
Topics & Keywords for Discussion: Portrait, shape, color, mood, emotion



Opening activity: Introduce your students to the artwork of Giuseppe Arcimboldo- a unique portrait artist who used symbolism of fruits, vegetables and herbs to create mood with his art. Share the portraits attached with students to get a feel for his work. Tell students that they will be drawing portraits, only instead of drawing eyes, lips and noses, they will be drawing vegetables and fruits as the features on the faces. Encourage students to list fruits and vegetables, or if possible, bring real fruits and vegetables to class and have students study those. Talk about shape and color- consider parts of the face and the forms of fruits of vegetables that mimic different expression. Students will then will choose what fruits and vegetables to use in their drawings.

Core Activity: Using the paper plates as the head, have students outline their portrait features with a pencil and then choose how they want to add to their portrait in color: do they want to make a painting? Color with crayon? Use construction paper to make a collage? Some older and more advanced students may choose to combine all 3 media options to make their finished portrait. You can also print images of fruits and vegetables or find and cut out fruits/vegetable images from magazines to support this effort.

Reflection: Ask students to think about the mood of the portrait- mood in art is often very similar to our own moods and emotions. Beyond whether the face is showing a happy or sad mood, what is the mood of the art? Are the colors bold or muted? Are the shapes connected or mis-matched? How can a piece of art communicate mood?



Usam Toulon, portrait with fruit & vegetables, based on the work of Arcimboldo!



"Autumn" by **Giuseppe Arcimboldo**