

Brazilian Art

Year 3 Unit 1

Key Vocabulary: Core Knowledge	
	original or first thought that will be built upon.
Abstract Art	Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent
	an accurate representation of reality but instead uses
	shapes, colours, forms and marks to achieve its effect.
Technical Vocabulary	
Printmaking	The activity of making pictures or designs by printing
	them from specially prepared plates or blocks.
Geometric Art	Geometric art originated in Greek art, and is
	recognised largely by geometric motifs. Geometric art
	is characterised by patterns or decorations of lines and
	shapes.
Motif	A motif is a decorative image or design, especially a
	repeated one, forming a pattern. It is also known as a
	dominant or recurring idea in an artistic work.
Collagraph Printing	Collagraph comes from the Greek 'colla', meaning glue,
	and 'graph,' meaning to draw. A collagraph is
	essentially a collage of materials of various textures
	glued on to a printing plate.



Cultural Knowledge

Brazilian Prehistorical Art

The first signs of Brazilian art can be found in hundreds of archaeological sites spread across Brazil. These caves contained paintings made with minerals (like charcoal) and natural pigments extracted from both plant and animal sources (like blood and concentrated juices).

Some 11,000-year-old paintings that have been found indicate that bones, clay, stones, and horns were being used to assist both in everyday situations and in ceremonial acts.

Brazilian Native Indigenous Art

Originally, the native indigenous people made decorative and ceramic objects like vases and statuettes in the shape of humans or animals, as well as masks, headpieces, cloaks, and plaits.

By extracting a natural red dye from the trunk of a tree called Pau Brasil (which served as an inspiration to name the country), they would also paint their bodies and mix it with other natural pigments to obtain other colours. These body paintings were not only used as decoration but also as a protective barrier against the sun, insects, and, according to their culture and traditions, against evil spirits as well. Each native indigenous tribe would develop their own painting patterns, which were used as a way to differentiate the families.

Brazilian Baroque Art

At that time, gold was being discovered and the areas that benefited from the gold mining would quickly gain the interest of the Catholic missionaries. This resulted in the construction of Catholic churches, whose architecture style would be heavily influenced by the Baroque trend, as a result meant the religious sculptures made of wood, now had carvings covered with thin layers of gold.

Brazilian Romantic Art

The Brazilian Romantic paintings represent the artistic idea of perfection of that time in the country, which aimed at establishing a strong, brave, and heroic Brazilian identity. For that reason, the paintings had a softness to them but still depicting the country as a solid unit with a courageous history.

Brazilian Expressionist Art

The main features that distinguished the Expressionism movement are, an appreciation of the artist's perspective, having pain and suffering as a recurrent theme, an appreciation of the human emotion, the presence of contrasting colours and themes.

Contemporary Brazilian Art

In the 1960s and 1970s, Brazilian art began to be exhibited internationally. At the same time, technology was advancing like crazy, making artists from all over the world use computers in order to create their pieces. The artists in general slowly stopped following international trends and started creating their own artistic identity, gaining respect throughout the museums around the country.