

Seminars in African Masks and Culture, with Related Art Projects

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7 to 10 class sessions, adaptable for grades 3 through 8, High School and Adult.

Goals:

Introduce African masks and culture in an understandable manner.

Elaborate the concepts of masking and parading into an art form and celebration.

Instill an awareness of color theory and symbolism related to design, pattern and culture for the purpose of self-expression.

Recognize and utilize the full potential of positive and negative space in the creation of three-dimensional objects as sculpture, and wearable art.

A sample 10-day workshop schedule:

- 1: Slide lecture: "Mask-making and Masked Rituals in Burkina Faso, West Africa".
- 2: Question/Answer/Discussion on slide lecture; show and tell with masks from Burkina Faso; video presentations of West African masked rituals and celebrations.
- 3: Lecture/Discussion: Symbolism of color and pattern. Exercise: Begin designing individual masks on paper. Design and color 2 or 3 different masks.
- 4: Begin work on a 3-dimensional mask or sculpture, in folded, cut, slotted and stapled posterboard; or, cardboard and hot glue construction.
- 5: Continue working on 3-D projects; individual attention and evaluations of works in progress.
- 6: Slide lecture: "Picture Writing in the West African Markets". Exercise: Draw and color one's family home, life story, job title, logo, coat of arms, personal identity/self portrait.
- 7: Continue working on personal projects; critiques, and review the concepts of color, pattern and symbolism; Demonstrations of advanced sculptural techniques.
- 8: Video presentation: "The Kid-Jerome Street Theater"; continue works in progress.
- 9: Finish details and paint masks and sculptures; discussion and planning of future projects to be undertaken after the workshop.
- 10: A Parade of Masks (bring your camera!); or, an Exhibition of original and colorful sculpture.



A Parade of Masks (5th and 6th graders)

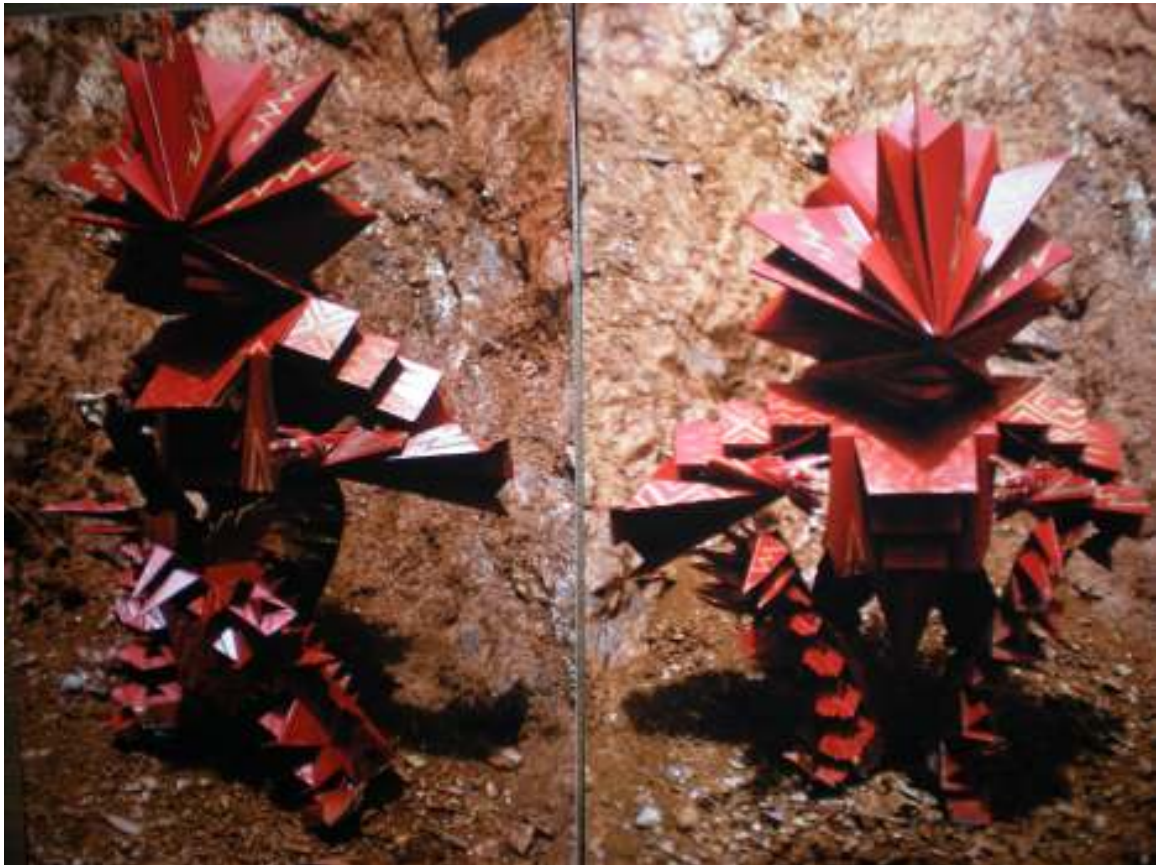


3rd Grade African Inspired Mask, Costume and Ceremonial Staff

Technical requirements:

Slide projector, VCR, pencils, paper and scissors for all students; staplers, scotch tape, colored markers, and 6 to 8: 12" by 18" sheets of posterboard per student.

For classes of older students wishing to work in cardboard: 15 sharp utility knives, 8 hot glue guns, 8 house hold extension cords, a roll of duct tape, 2: 1 or 2 gallon buckets, a box of band-aids and anti-bacterial ointment for minor cuts and burns, 1 quart of each of the 8 primary and basic colors of tempera paints, 24 assorted paint brushes, and 4 to 5 large, clean, and flattened cardboard boxes per student.



One of Richard Johnson's African Inspired Masks and Costume, executed in Cardboard.



Project sample of an African Inspired Mask on Paper.

Class size and cost:

Appropriate class size: 17 to 27 students. Approximate cost per 120 students: \$50 to \$400. Most of the supplies are in use in many schools, and glue guns and utility knives may be borrowed from students' homes. In some instances, only glue sticks, new knife blades, new markers, and posterboard need to be purchased. To discuss specifics with teaching artist, Richard Johnson, phone: 928 – 634 – 3309, or e-mail: rjinjerome@hotmail.com.