UNRAVEL A SCENE

Transform Walls Into Murals

Materials: Large wall or other vertical surface, heavy-duty paper, pencil, crayons, Duck Tape® rolls and sheets in a variety of colors and patterns, scissors or craft knife
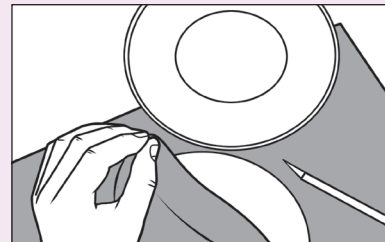
1. Introduce students to mural paintings as a form of large-scale artistic expression used to transform large plain surfaces (especially walls) into works of art.

2. Investigate muralists of all kinds including Michelangelo, Pablo Picasso, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Sol LeWitt, Peter Max, and others. Discuss the forms, colors, textures, styles, and techniques that each artist uses in the creation of his or her work.

3. Tell students they will be creating a class mural using Duck Tape® as their "paint." Assign sections of the mural to individuals or groups based on the size of the surface and the class.

4. Decide as a class what the overall style of the mural will be, or allow each individual student or group of students to come up with their own idea for their panel, which will be part of a class-wide compilation mural.

For advanced students/classes: Three-dimensional elements can be integrated into the mural. Other lesson plans (including "Neck Jewelry," "3D Sculpture Study," "Masks," and "Fantasy Garden") can be consulted to create items that can be attached to the surface of the mural, or the mural can even act as the background to the Fantasy Garden.

HOW-TO

1. Prepare the surface Choose a wall or large bulletin board for the mural. For a less permanent version, cover surface with heavy-duty paper.

2. Plan and sketch Plot out and sketch smaller study versions of each individual panel. Once approved by the teacher and/or class in accordance with the theme or style, transfer the sketch directly onto the mural surface. Crayons work well for this, and tape will cover any mistakes.

3. Paint "Color" in lines and shapes using strips of Duck Tape® from the roll, or cut templates out of Duck Tape® sheets and apply. Use scissors or a craft knife to trim rough edges as desired.

Crafter: Jim Noonan. Photo: Thom Lang Photography.

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