

**Meet an Artist in our Collection:
Romare Bearden, American Artist
(1911-1988)**

Parental Note: As with all technology usage, we encourage parents to be involved with or aware of their child's online research. Art collections are wide and varied in their selections including sensitive subjects. Parents are encouraged to open and preview the images they wish to use with their children in our lessons.

Objectives:

Students will be introduced to one of the artists whose work is a part of the Martin Museum of Art's collection.

Students will learn about the technique - collage.

Students will create a collage based around a personal experience.

Students will utilize their artwork as the inspiration for a creative writing piece.

Background/Definitions/Image Sources

Romare Bearden, originally from North Carolina, was a cartoonist, art editor and social worker among other things in addition to being an artist. He explored many different media and styles of art throughout his career including collage. Bearden was also known for reflecting life experiences of African Americans in his creations. To learn more about him, visit beardenfoundation.org or one of the sites below.

Collage: The glossary from MoMA* describes collage as: *Derived from the French verb coller, meaning "to glue," collage refers to both the technique and the resulting work of art in which fragments of paper and other materials are arranged and glued or otherwise affixed to a supporting surface.*

His artwork can be found in a number of museum collections including those of The Smithsonian American Art Museum; the Dallas Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The Martin Museum of Art on the campus of Baylor University will feature one of his pieces from our collection in our 40th Anniversary Exhibition in the coming months.

*Modern Museum of Art (NY) Glossary https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/glossary/

Project: Story Telling through Art

Supplies:

- background paper - construction paper, tag board or cardboard
- magazine images, digital copies of photos or extra copies of actual old photos.
Make sure you have permission to cut these items up before your start.
- Construction paper for cutting out shapes or objects to add to your art.
- Glue - School glue or glue sticks
- Colored pens, pencils or paint. Enhance your collage by adding your own drawings or paint to your art.

Time to create:

1. Look at several collages created by Romare Bearden. The Smithsonian American Art Museum collection has several very nice images for this purpose. Talk about what story he might have been telling.
2. Think of an event in your life that you could tell through pictures. Examples: a trip to a concert, flying a kite, a family celebration
3. Gather magazine/photo images and/or cutout your own images - background scenery such as a house, building or park; items like a ball, a cake, an instrument; and people - real or like Bearden 1/2 real and 1/2 cut out of paper
4. Lay out your pieces on an extra piece of paper to create your picture. Think about what can be further back in the picture and what should be closest to the front.
5. Carefully remove the pieces from the back first and begin gluing them down to the final sheet of paper. If you wanted to draw or paint a background, do this before gluing down any cutouts.

Teachers/Parents - Lesson Extensions:**Creative writing or story telling**

2nd grade and up - Extend the lesson by writing a story to go along with one of Bearden's artworks. Write about a fictional event or a story that includes a conversation based on what you see happening.

2nd grade and younger - Make a list of shapes and colors you see. Make a word list of things in one of Bearden's pieces. "Tell" a story making sure to use some of the words from your lists or write a descriptive sentence.

Theater/UII Storytelling - Give the students a few minutes to think about their creation or a piece by Bearden. Instruct them that in a few minutes you will be asking for volunteers to briefly share their story out loud with the class. Encourage them to present it as if they are the teacher reading the class a very exciting tale.

Share your work:

Send a copy of your work to your teacher and/or art teacher. Explain what you learned. We love to see your creativity. Take a picture and tag us on social media or email it to

MartinMuseum@baylor.edu

Facebook: @MartinMuseumofArt

Instagram: @martin_museum

Twitter: @MartinMuseumBU