



The Peep with a Pearl Earring by Kris Fontes.



Andy Warhol Peep.

Pop Culture PEEPS

Julie Kruszewski and Kris Fontes

The inspiration for this lesson came from an article in the local newspaper entitled "Pop Culture Peeps." The article displayed a picture of a Peep dressed up as the character Ugly Betty from the television show. Readers were challenged to create their own "Pop Culture Peep" and send in photographs of it to the newspaper.

Procedures

We discussed Pop Culture with our students and how it relates to Pop Art. We showed examples we had made of our own Peeps. I created a Pop Culture Peep of the actress

Cameron Diaz when I was working with the seventh graders, while my cooperating teacher, Kris Fontes, recreated Vermeer's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* Peep, as we worked with the high school students.

Students were required to first research famous artists and/or famous artworks to have an image to use as a reference. The students I worked with were required to find a picture of the artist or artwork to use as a reference. Some obtained images from the Internet, magazines, or books.

Students planned out how they would decorate the Peep, deciding what materials they would use to create the Peep in the style of their

chosen artist or artwork. During their research and planning, students were allowed to eat one Peep. They were provided with a second Peep to decorate.

Soft air-dry clay was used to create different features on the Peeps such as hats, glasses, and accessories. Since the clay we used was white, students could paint it the desired color or use markers on it. Yarn was used for the hair along with scrap warp and macramé cord. All of the accessories were glued on using a glue stick. Some students used decoupage glue to make the Peep look polished and finished. If you wish to formally display the Peeps, you can hot glue miniature



High school students creating their Pop Culture Peeps.



Anime Bird Peep.

picture frames to small cardboard boxes to create a decorative shadow box.

Peeps on Display

It is great fun to display the Peeps when all of them are finished. I chose to display them with the picture of the artist or the artwork behind each one so that everyone could see the resemblance. Also, you can have students record their research on note cards to place with the display. This way, all who observe the display will learn a little bit about art history and/or pop culture. Additionally, consider making the display interactive by placing a ballot box outside of the case along

with paper and a pencil. Other students and faculty in the building can vote on their favorite Peep! ☺

Julie Kruszewski was a student teacher with cooperating teacher Kris Fontes at Union City Middle School/High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when this lesson was taught. julkruz@comcast.net, kfontes2@neo.rr.com

NATIONAL STANDARD

Students describe the origins of specific images and ideas and explain why they are of value in their artwork and in the work of others.

WEB LINK

www.marshmallowpeeps.com

Materials

- peeps
- soft air-dry clay (white)
- hot glue guns/ glue sticks
- acrylic paint/ paintbrushes
- markers
- yarn, sequins, beads, ribbon, other found objects
- miniature frames and small cardboard boxes