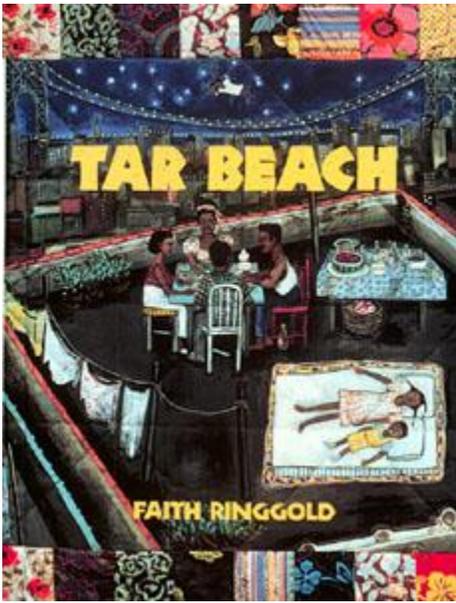


ART & THE LIBRARY

Textile Art

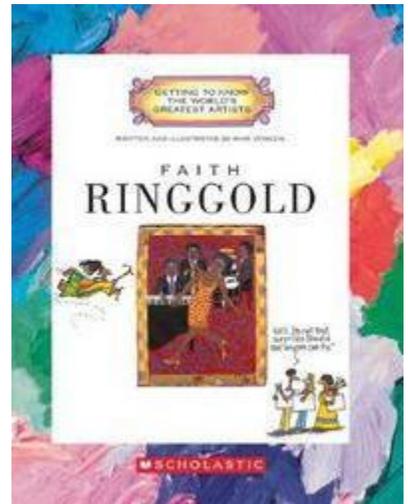
Book Connection



Faith Ringgold brings textiles to the art world with the unique, story-like quality of her quilts. Her book, *Tar Beach*, is a beautiful example of the use of textile as an illustrative art form. A child of the Harlem Renaissance, Ringgold takes us on a dream-like journey through this historical time using her signature style of quilted narratives.

Faith Ringgold by Mike Venezia is a great biography for kids wanting to learn more about this renowned textile artist. Venezia goes through the life of Faith Ringgold while showcasing her work. Ringgold's style and content is personal as it

reflects her views and experiences about race and African-American culture. This book is an interesting resource for kids to better understand her work, life, influences, and the issues of her time.



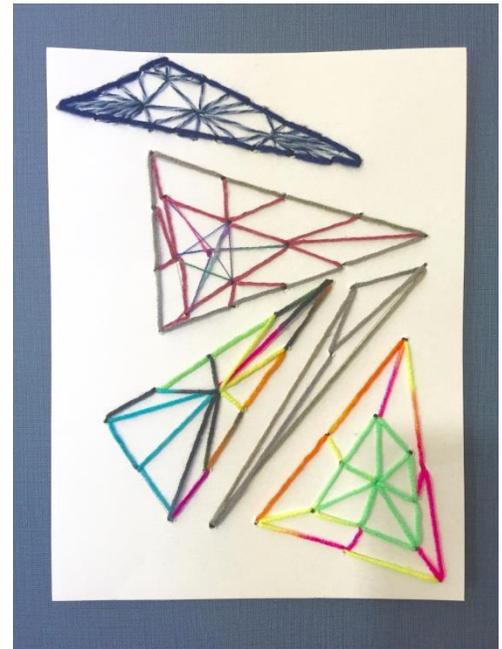
Inspired Activity

Textile art is art that uses fibers as a medium for artmaking. This provides a diverse range of projects and exploration using fabric, thread, etc. Our inspired activity for this month is yarn embroidered paper. The objective of this project is to introduce kids to textile art in a simple, open-ended way that requires creative problem-solving and learning new skills.

The materials needed for this project are: watercolor paper (or any other thick, durable paper), yarn (various colors), thick plastic sewing needles, glue sticks, pencils, rulers, and corkboard/cardboard.

1. To begin, each child should create a sketch of an image they'd like to embroider. Explain that they will want their image to be kept big and simple, with not too much detail or small shapes. When they've finished their brief sketch, they should use a pencil to re-draw their image on the thick, watercolor paper.

2. Next, they'll want to put their paper over a soft surface such as cork or cardboard. They then use the plastic sewing needle to create holes in their image. To start, they should put holes along the lines that they've drawn. They're free to add other holes, but remind them that they'll be sewing this and probably don't want to make too many.
3. After they've finished their holes, they can begin sewing. Threading the needle and tying knots is tricky for kids, so they may need help. Tips for making this easier: wrap a small piece of tape around the end of the cut yarn to make threading easier; to prevent the end of the yarn from pulling out of the holes, instead of knotting the end of the yarn, they can tape the end to the back of the paper.
4. To sew, they should begin by cutting a piece of yarn (these can be pre-cut for them to use). They then thread their needle, knot the end (or tape) and begin sewing. Remind them that the knot (or tape) should be always on the back of their paper. Each time that they need to get a new piece of yarn, they should remember to tape or knot the yarn they just finished sewing with, so their design doesn't come undone. How they sew is up to them. This project is meant to be an exploration of embroidery and textile as art. Keeping their techniques open-ended helps their learning to be driven by problem-solving and creativity.
5. To finish the artwork, they will need to secure the back knots/tape using glue. This can be done using glue sticks or glue with paintbrushes. They should carefully find each knot or yarn end and glue it down so that it is secure. Allow time to dry. They're finished!



This project may be adapted to allow for more instruction on embroidery techniques, image quality, image content etc. or different embroidery supplies depending on age and skill level.

Related Artists

Faith Ringgold

Do Ho Suh

Christo & Jeanne-Claude

Gabriel Dawe

Emily Barletta

Jane Denton

Quilts of Gee's Bend

Michael Anthony Simon

Jeila Gueramian

AR Visual Art Standards K-8

Creating – Content Standards 1-3

Connecting – Content Standard 11

Additional Library Resources

Print

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold [PIC Ringgold Faith]

A Far-Fetched Story by Karin Cates [PIC Cates Karin]

Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea by Tony Johnston [PIC Johnston Tony]

Mother Earth and Her Children by Sibylle Von Olfers [PIC Olfers Sibylle]

Faith Ringgold by Mike Venezia [JNF 92 Ringgold Faith]

Cool Sewing for Kids by Alex Kuskowski [JNF 746 KUS]

Cool Embroidery for Kids by Alex Kuskowski [JNF 746.44 KUS]

Kids' Embroidery by Kristin Nicholas [JNF 746.44 NIC]

E-Learning on our website's Student Portal

(K-4) eLibrary Elementary (Proquest) –

"textile." *Compton's by Britannica, v 6.0*. 2009. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.

"Ringgold, Faith (biography)." *Her Heritage: A Biographical Encyclopedia of Famous American Women*. 1.00 ed. 1995. *eLibrary Elementary*. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.

(K-4) World Book Online for Kids -

"Textile." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2015. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.

"Ringgold, Faith." *World Book Kids*. World Book, 2015. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.

(5-6) World Book Student -

Corwin, Nancy A. "Tapestry." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 5 Nov. 2015.

"Embroidery." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 5 Nov. 2015.

Cech, John. "Ringgold, Faith." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 5 Nov. 2015.

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