

A Family Moment

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| Essential Question | Why do artists depict personal moments in their art? |
| Grade | 2nd |
| Time | 45 minutes |
| Art Concepts | Composition, mood, autobiographical |
| Materials | 8½-by-11-inch white or colored paper, markers, crayons Optional: oil pastels |
| Artwork in Focus | <u><i>Mother About to Wash Her Sleepy Child</i></u> , Mary Cassatt, 1880 |
| Talking About Art | <p>Artist Mary Cassatt was an American painter who was inspired by French art techniques, and specifically inspired by the French use of composition. For painters, composition refers to how an artist arranges the different objects or people they are depicting on the canvas.</p> <p>One of Cassatt's favorite people to paint was her sister, Lydia, and other people in her family, making a lot of her work autobiographical, or about her own life. What do you see in <i>Mother About to Wash Her Sleepy Child</i>? What do you think the relationship between these two people is?</p> <p>What mood do you feel from the painting? How do the colors make you feel? Why do you think Cassatt showed the two figures so close up? Why do you think she wanted to represent her family members?</p> |

Making Art

1. Think of a family moment that you would like to show. This could be something you remember happening or something you would like to happen.
2. Start by experimenting with drawing big and small shapes on a sheet of paper. Draw a big, close-up shape (kind of like the size of the mother in Cassatt's painting) and then a smaller shape (like the baby in the painting).
3. Then, using what you learned by experimenting with different-size shapes, draw your family moment.
4. Color your drawing in with markers, crayons, or oil pastels. Think about how to show emotions or a mood using color.
5. Share what you have drawn with your classmates or your family.

Reflection

What family moment did you choose to depict and why? What was challenging about drawing your picture? How would you describe your composition?

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Re7.1: Select and describe works of art that illustrate daily life experiences of one's self and others. K.VA:Re7.2: Describe what an image represents. 1.VA:Re9: Classify artwork based on different reasons for preferences using learned art vocabulary. K.VA:Cn10: Create art that tells a story about a life experience.

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