

JASPER JOHNS



1930 -




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EARLY LIFE

- Jasper Johns was born in 1930 in Augusta, Georgia.
- He didn't have a solid homelife growing up. He bounced between living with his grandfather, mother, and aunt.
- Johns didn't take any art lessons as a child and didn't go to art museums or galleries, but he knew he wanted to be an artist.

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JASPER JOHNS



When Johns was 19, he moved to New York City to study at the Parsons School of Design but didn't have enough money to finish.

He was drafted into the army and sent to Japan. Despite being at war, he fell in love with the art and culture in Japan.

When he returned to NY after the war, he became friends with a bunch of different kinds of artists from painters to composers to choreographers.

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Find new meaning in everyday objects.



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BREAKOUT PAINTING



"One night I dreamed that I painted a large American flag." Johns has said of this work, "and the next morning I got up and I went out and bought the materials to begin it."

Flag, 1954

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BREAKOUT PAINTING

Materials included:

- 1) Three canvases that he mounted on plywood
- 2) Strips of newspaper
- 3) He added melted wax which created lumps and smears on the surface of the piece



Flag, 1954

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BREAKOUT PAINTING

HISTORY PRESERVED

The newspaper scraps visible are from the 1950's. So, you can read the stories beneath the stripes, and forty-eight stars shows he finished the piece before Alaska and Hawaii became a part of the United States.

Flag, 1954

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CRITICS DIDN'T LIKE THE PAINTING

One critic didn't see why this "painting" was art.

Johns' answered that the American flag is something "the mind already knows, but its execution complicates the representation and invites close inspection."



Flag, 1954

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This painting includes objects that were hanging around Johns' studio.



Field Painting 1963-64

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What colors are in these paintings?



Thermometer, 1959

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Red, blue, and yellow are called **PRIMARY COLORS**.

What are the **SECONDARY COLORS** in these paintings?

Numbers in Color, 1959

Figure 8, 1959

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Why do you think Jasper painted things like numbers and letters?



Target, 1974

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JASPER JOHNS BELIEVES...

Digits are familiar, a part of our everyday lives from a very young age.

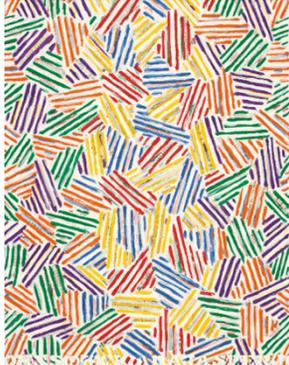
The viewers job when looking at paintings of ordinary objects is to question what is different about it.

Humans want answers.



Target, 1974

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Cicada, 1979

Jasper moved into another phase in his life, practicing **abstract expressionism**. His cross-hatch paintings begged the viewer to question "where do I look, where do you start?"

With lines and patterns Jasper changes the rhythm and speed of motion.

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United, 2012



Winter, 1986

CONTINUED GROWTH

To Jasper, abstract art was preferring the audience to interpret his work and find it's meaning in a personal way.

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EXPERIMENTATION WITH ART STYLES



POP ART - art based on modern popular culture and the mass media

NEO-DADA - known for their usage of mass media and found objects

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM - emotional expression with particular emphasis on the creative spontaneous act

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AWARD

Johns is considered a major influence on pop, minimalist and conceptual art. He used his art to explore themes of perception and identity.

His textured images of American flags became icons of modern art, and he was honored by President Barack Obama in 2010, at the age of 80, with a Presidential Medal of Freedom.



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Alphabet, 1999

TODAY'S INSPIRATION

- Art Supplies**
 - 5.5" x 8.5" Template on White Cardstock
 - Markers
 - Crayons
 - Pencil and Eraser
- Art Fundamentals**
 - Primary and Secondary Colors
 - Free-hand Lettering
 - Repetition

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**Look at letters in a new way.
Present them your way.**



And put your name on the back of your paper.

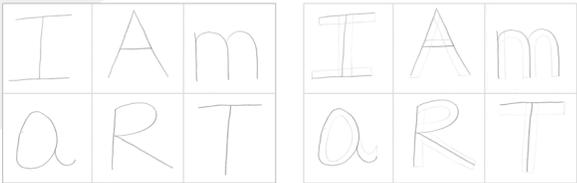
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VARIATIONS OF OUR PROJECT



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STEP ONE **STEP TWO**

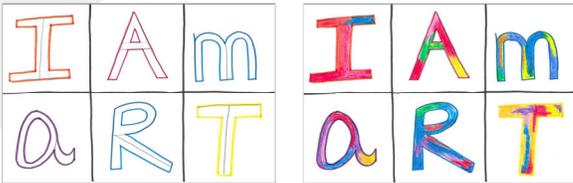


Draw your letters **LIGHTLY** in pencil. Think about a six-letter word, phrase, name, or if you want to do the same letter in different ways.

Now create secondary lines that are parallel to the first.

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STEP THREE **STEP FOUR**



Outline your letters with marker. Erase the pencil on the inside.

Think about how you want to fill in your letters. Solid colors? Lots of colors? Patterns?

I filled in my letters using crayons like I was painting with them.

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STEP FIVE



I hid the letters using similar colors as I did on the inside. To make the letters stand out and not fully disappear, I used complementary colors and lines that created a sense of motion.

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References



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