

ART HISTORY IN A BOTTLE

GET YOUR STUDENTS EXCITED
ABOUT ART HISTORY!
YOU'LL NEVER LOOK AT A BOTTLE
THE SAME WAY AGAIN!

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Report on a famous artist of their choice
- Devise and apply a plan to recreate artwork of a famous artist
- Incorporate art history, aesthetics, and criticism with a hands-on activity
- Experience the skills and techniques belonging to a particular culture, time, and place



INTRODUCTION

The island of Haiti has produced a wide and rich variety of art through its many cultural influences. Social elements such as voodoo, Catholicism, and poverty — as well as the island's natural beauty — have inspired iron sculptures, paintings, dolls, and decorated bottles. When canvas and boards were not readily available, some artists used bottles as a canvas.

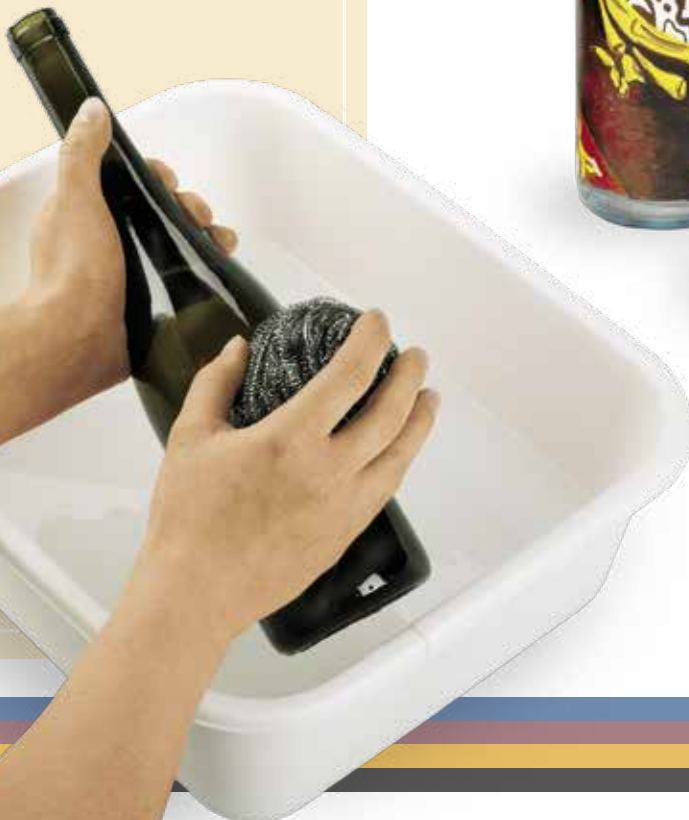
This lesson can easily be adapted to teach many different cultures and art styles.

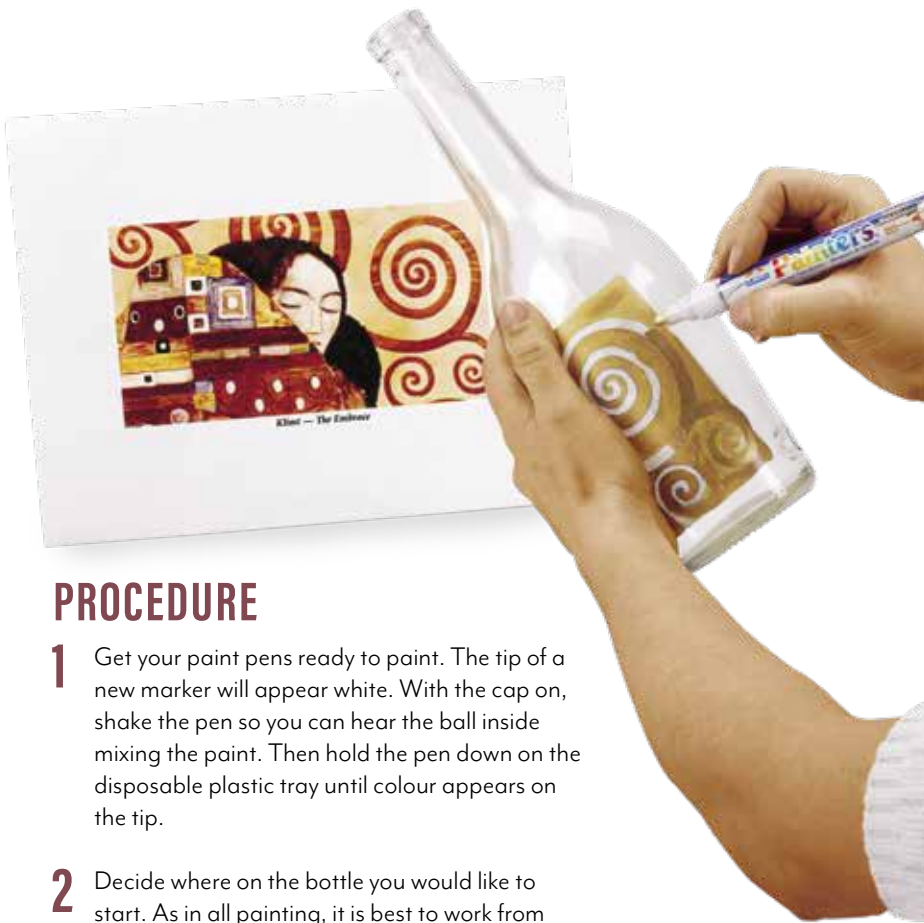
PREPARATION

CHOOSING AN ARTIST: Have the students gather information from a variety of sources on a particular artist of their choice to report on. Students should locate examples (photographs) of the artist's work to recreate on a bottle.

CHOOSING A BOTTLE: Have students bring in bottles from home or contact a local restaurant and request that they save some empty bottles. Certain colours of glass evoke different emotions; students should choose the bottle's colour based on their individual painting. Bottles with no raised lettering or markings work best.

CLEANING THE BOTTLE: Soak the bottles overnight in soapy water to remove the labels and glue. Metallic labels can be removed with an X-ACTO® knife. All glue residue must be removed. Scrubbing with a stainless steel scrubber or using acetone works well.





PROCEDURE

- 1** Get your paint pens ready to paint. The tip of a new marker will appear white. With the cap on, shake the pen so you can hear the ball inside mixing the paint. Then hold the pen down on the disposable plastic tray until colour appears on the tip.
- 2** Decide where on the bottle you would like to start. As in all painting, it is best to work from the background to the foreground. However, sometimes the bottle's colour can serve as a background.
- 3** Paint the large areas first. Work your way out and around the bottle.
- 4** Tints or shades of a colour can be made by mixing the pens themselves on a plastic tray.
- 5** Once large areas are done and dry, go back in and add the small details.
- 6** Upon completion, students can "cork off" the top with their report.

FOLLOW-UP IDEAS

- Bottles decorated with holiday motifs make great gifts, and are a great fundraiser idea for a school's art club.
- Fill the bottles with candy and give them as a gift.

TIPS

- It is wise to cover yourself with a smock or lay a rag on your lap. The markers are water-based but are permanent and will not wash out of clothes.
- Starting at the top of your bottle and working your way down is advised. It prevents smudging.
- It is always a good idea to have several white paint pens. The tips contaminate easily while creating a colour tint.
- The paint pens dry quickly. Acetone or nail polish remover and a cotton swab or rag will remove any mistakes.
- Store paint pens on their side to prevent drying out.





MATERIALS LIST

Glass bottles (various shapes, sizes, and colours)

Decocolour™ Paint Markers - Broad Point Set — [9726367](#)

Ink Mixing Tray - Pkg. of 10, 6" x 9" — [9703440](#)

Tub — [9731926](#)

Acetone (optional) or Nail Polish Remover



150 Pony Drive Newmarket, ON L3Y 7B6
Telephone: 1-800-668-0600
Online: spectrumed.ca