

# WHO MAKES ART?

## FAMILY LEARNING ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** Explore the process of creating a self-portrait through abstraction.

**MATERIALS:**

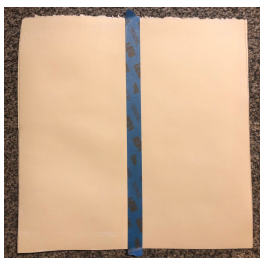
- Thick white paper
- Painter's or artist's tape

Choose any of the following materials you want to use:

- Watercolor or tempera paint
- Paintbrushes
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers

**STEPS:** 1. Divide your paper into two sections using your tape.

Examples:



2. Pick one of the two sections to draw or paint how you represent yourself to others. Think about what colors, shapes, patterns, and textures you could use to show this.

Remember, this is an abstract piece, so try showing what you feel rather than what you see.

### QUICK TIP:

Before placing your tape down, stick it to your clothes first! This will make it less sticky and prevent your paper from tearing once you take it off.

# WHO MAKES ART?

## IN WHAT WAYS ARE WE ALL ARTISTS?



Finished artwork

3. Remove the tape once your first side is dry or finished.
4. Place another piece of tape down on the edge of your drawing or painting where it meets the blank half of your paper.
5. Now, start drawing or painting on the blank section representing how you see yourself. Be sure to use different materials on this side.
6. Remove the tape once your second side is dry.
7. Think of a title for each side.

### DISCUSSION:

- Did you know that an artwork with two distinct sides is called a diptych?
- How did using different materials change the meaning of each side of your piece?
- How are the two sides of your piece similar? How are they different?
- How did your color choices change the meaning of each side of your piece?
- What elements of art did you use to create your abstract piece?



### FUN FACT!

The Abstract Expressionism art movement officially began in the 1940s after World War II, but some artists started creating abstract art even earlier! **Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944)** was thought of as one of the first Western artists to create art in an abstract way.



**HAGGERTY**  
MUSEUM OF ART  
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

**FOR MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION, AND IDEAS, VISIT:**

Check out Kandinsky's art: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/wassily-kandinsky>

For step-by-step instructions: <https://youtu.be/Qew4caRCNjE>