LEGO – "FILM-CELL SELF PORTRAIT"

Art Element:

Proportion, Scene, Symmetry

Tools:

Samples
Art Term Posters

Supplemental Tools/Ideas:

Music – use the boom box in the portable
Books – check the Art Docent library, books from home, etc.
World Map – show where artist is from
Lego figure from home to reference

Supplies:

Pencils
Watercolor Paper 10½   x 11
Sketch paper 8 ½ x 11
Overhead Sheets 8 ½ x 11
Mirrors/Lego Figures
Lego Outlines
Black Sharpies
Oil Pastels

Introduction:

1. Today we will be creating self-portraits in a very interesting medium designed to simulate a film cell! How many of you know what a "film-cell" is? A "film-cell is actually a still picture from an actual movie. Films are basically created by flashing light through a series of still photos at very high speeds. A cell is one of those still photos.

2. Today you will imagine yourself as a Lego character in a film! Your character should show something that interests you – maybe your character is an artist, or a hockey player, or a guitar player, or a computer whiz! Imagine a "scene" that your character may be in and that is how you will create your background.

3. Once your background is complete, you will work on your actual Lego self-portrait. Use the Lego figure samples to get an idea of accurate proportions and shape.

4. Just like with all self-portraits, focus on proportion and symmetry. Let's get started!

Technique:
Note – to save time and allow students the best opportunity to complete their artwork, we are requesting that docents please prepare the watercolor sheets ahead of time. After watercolor paper is cute, please use SHARPIE markers to create the black film cell lines along the edges. This way the students can focus on the watercolor of their background.

1. Hand out 10½ x 11 prepared (per above!) watercolor paper. Students will use water colors for the background. The background does not need much detail, just a very basic scene – the focus should be on the self-portrait! Is your background at the library? The soccer field? The beach? Remember, this will be a very subtle and basic drawing. The entire background should not take more than 5 minutes!

2. Set your background aside to dry. As it is drying, you will focus on your Lego self-portrait. Use your scrap drawing paper to draw your Lego character self-portrait. Be sure to use your Lego figure as a reference tool while you are drawing – students may also trace the Lego outlines if they choose. **But remember – these should be individual – so encourage students to change the "stance" of the lego character to fit their ideas!** Use the entire page – draw big! And remember not to use letters or numbers, as this drawing will actually be flipped on your final piece.

4. Now hand out the overhead sheets. Students will lay the overhead sheets over their drawing (use tape if necessary to keep it in place) and use their sharpies to trace the drawing onto the clear overhead sheet.

5. Now pass out the oil pastels. Students will use the pastels to add color to their overhead sheet. Be sure to push hard and get good coverage on their drawing so that the background does not show through!

6. Now you will take your final oil pastel drawing and flip it over onto your background. Use glue dots or rubber cement to adhere the overhead sheet to your background. Your film-cell is complete! Now use your sharpies to sign your name to the front – like a true artist!

Summary/Art Quiz:
1. Once students have cleaned up their work area. Remind them what they learned today.

2. Can anyone tell me what inspired us today? And what art techniques did we learn? And do your remember what tools we used? What was your favorite part of this lesson? Use the Art Quiz Door Poster for reference.

Artist Inspiration:

A film cell is a small cut piece from the actual film used in a movie. It is a still picture from a moving picture film reel. With this lesson, students are actually creating a background and placing a character into a "scene" – scenes can easily be switched out, completely changing the focus and meaning of the main image.