Hundertwasser House(s)

Adapted for teach at home

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Lesson: Artists will create a Hundertwasser inspired architecture composition using mixed media.

Parent teachers: Create your own sample FIRST using the materials available for your children. Don’t skip the discussion about the artist.

Art Supplies

White paper: 15” x 10” Note: Any size composition ground will work; watercolor paper is great if artist is going to use watercolor paint in negative space.

Collage paper: Any available paper will work for this lesson—including wrapping paper, sheet music, magazine paper, etc. Artists can design many houses or for younger artists, just one. This project could take several sessions. Sizes are approximate. For very young artists, precut shapes to be glued together.

Note: If artists prefer, this lesson could be done with markers only.

- One large “color” piece approximately 4” x 9”
- Two “color” pieces approximately 4” x 3
- Other assorted color papers (smaller sizes and vary colors)
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Spray watercolors
- Crayons or oil pastels

If you don’t have spray watercolors: (empty spray bottle with about 2 inches of water. Put old Crayola color marker inside (tip down). Let sit overnight or a few nights. Depending on how dark the water becomes, add another marker if necessary. Dilute as desired with more water if color is intense.) Remember: only put in color markers that hold hands on color wheel!!!! (complementary colors will turn the water brown)

Optional: may paint in negative spaces with watercolor paints (before applying collage). May add glitter at end.
Parents: Look up images of Hundertwasser Houses, real and in his artwork on the internet. There are also examples by other teachers who have used him for art lessons on Pinterest.

“The dogmatic world of architecture refuses to concede that the architecture most fitting to man is to be found in children's drawings and fairy-tale books. It shouldn't be all that difficult to turn what children dream up into constructed reality.” ....”  

Hundertwasser was deeply concerned about many social issues which he addressed through his art. He and his mother survived World War II, though 69 of his maternal relatives were killed in concentration camps. Post war, he decided to become an artist. His first documented drawings were of blooming flowers. He is said to be influenced by Paul Klee and Cezanne.

(Appropriate text for a children's Hundertwasser book is included in this lesson plan on last page.)

Questions to consider:

Look at artwork- Ask and answer questions- Cite your reasons- Explain and elaborate

Hundertwasser believed that architecture should be in harmony with nature and with man. Below are some of his rules about what he thought a house should be like.

- House should not have straight walls.
- Walls should be bumpy and built by hand.
- The stories of a house should be different heights.
- There should be many balconies of every shapes and size with grass growing on them.
- Houses should be planned with trees everywhere including the roof top.
- Ivy should grow on the buildings.
- Children should be allowed to scribble, paint and scratch on all public walls.
- Sewage should be part of a system built into the house, not piped miles away.
- Re-using trash should be done joyfully by everyone.

Compare and contrast Hundertwasser drawings of houses and the actual house built in his design.

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1 Hundertwasser, Taschen 2004; www.hundertwasser.com
• Is it possible to create a house using his ideas?
• What do you like or dislike about his ideas?
• Have you ever seen a house that reminds you of Hundertwasser?
• Would you like to live in a Hundertwasser neighborhood?

Process:

Artists may create rolling hills and spiral “clouds” with crayons or oil pastels if available.

Optional: spray watercolor paper before collage process BUT after drawing with oil pastels.

Artists may also paint with watercolors in negative space.

Apply spray watercolor to white paper. No more than 3 squirts. Adult supervision required. Allow to dry before applying collage.
Give some direction into the process of creating the main housing structure(s).

Artists may create as many houses as they like using the ideas Hundertwasser expressed about architecture or their own ideas about what makes a building useful and beautiful.

Show examples of adding roof tops and windows.
Encourage process of building the architecture adding the smallest details last.

If available: Embellish with small amount of glitter glue, beads etc. at end of project.
Hundertwasser
By Kathleen Kane-Murrell


Is it possible for one person to change the world?

Fritz Stowasser was born in a magical place filled with forests and castles. Vienna was called the city of dreams. He was surrounded by music, art and new ideas.

Unfortunately, everything changed by the time Fritz was eleven. His country, Austria, was at war. People, art, music, and books were destroyed. New ideas were not acceptable. His mother was a Jew and just because of that, he was in danger.

Fritz often did not have enough food. Sometimes he had to hide to survive.

Beautiful Vienna was forever changed.

BUT…

When the war ended, young Fritz saw something remarkable. He noticed that after the rain, grass and plants began to sprout. Even in the parts of Vienna that were destroyed, new life grew.

One of his treasured possessions was a stamp collection. The faraway places his stamps traveled before he pasted them in his album, stirred his imagination and sparked a deep desire. Stamps
were tiny wonders about a bigger world beyond Vienna. The art on the stamps was created by artists. Could he be an artist? Could he travel to those places?

Fritz started art school and he continued to ask questions.

Was there a way to make the earth a better place through art? What sort of houses would be the best to live in. What kind of clothes should people wear? How would he help people learn to live together peacefully? Would the world ever understand that being different was a good thing?

Fritz was sure staying close to nature was part of the answer.

When he was 20, Fritz made a big decision.

He changed his name and began a new life. His new name used the German words for peace and kingdom and water: **Friedenreich Hundertwasser**.
He believed it was important to respect the earth and live in harmony with nature. Hundertwasser wanted everyone to sort, reuse and recycle. This was beautiful and joyful. “We are Mother Nature’s guest.”

When making his art, Hundertwasser thought it should grow as a plant grows. He drew just a few lines that grew and bloomed with color. “I fill a picture until it is full of Magic as one fills up a glass of water”.

“When I paint, I am dreaming. The picture is what remains after the dream”.

He transformed an old worn out ship. The sails billowed with every color of the rainbow. His ship was named the Regentag, which meant rainy day. Hundertwasser sailed around the world in search of new friends and answers to his questions. One of his favorite countries was New Zealand. But he always knew there would be no place like home, Vienna.
Throughout his life Hundertwasser showed the world how to live **differently**.

Hundertwasser was:

- **An architect**  He built unusual houses without straight lines.
- **A designer**  He made bright colorful clothes from natural fibers
- **An ecologist**  He told everyone how to protect the earth
- **An explorer**  He respected all cultures
- **An artist**  He believed in the power of art

Hundertwasser’s ideas matter even more today. We recycle. We know how we live affects the climate and quality of life on earth. We know art can change our point of view and teach us about valuing different cultures, people and places.

Fritz the boy dreamed about making the world a better place and Hundertwasser the man did exactly that. In 1988 the city of Vienna awarded him a gold medal for the work he accomplished all over the world.

“I try to do something constructive and to guide people to a better world…a better world as I picture it”.