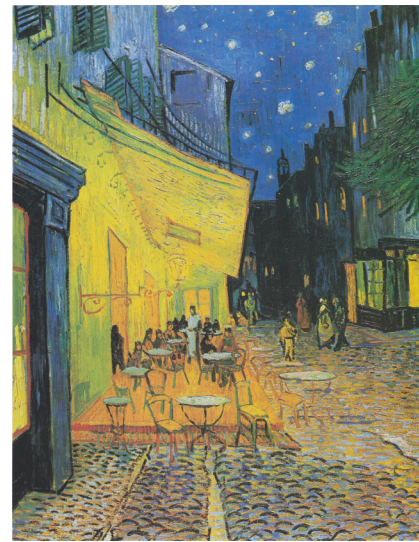


BUILD THE SET



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ART

Cafe Terrace at Night - Create The Cafe by Vincent Van Gogh

Age Group:	7-9
Topic:	2D Art - Cafe Terrace at Night by Vincent Van Gogh.
Learning Outcome:	To be able to work with a group to physically recreate a painting, using bodies and props to capture the characters, objects, and relationships from the original artwork.
Drama Overview:	Directed and led by the lead adult, the children will use the space in the classroom to recreate Van Gogh's Cafe Terrace at Night. They will use their bodies and simple props to become objects, structures and people from the painting.
Prior Learning:	The children should have completed an exploration of the artwork guided by an adult. By discussing the artwork first, children will be better able to connect with it through their drama.

DELIVERING THE DRAMA

The exploration around the artwork to complete with the children before the activity might look like this:

Say:

Let's take a good look at this artwork. I want you to think about the answers to my questions in your mind, without talking out loud. Let's start by looking at the top of the image, then the middle, and the bottom. Now let's share what we think by answering these questions:

- What do you notice?
- If you stepped into the image what sounds might you hear?
- What smells might there be?
- Tell me about the place? What might be happening here?
- Where would you want to go in the artwork? Why?
- Which part of the painting is your eye drawn to? Why?
- Who would you want to speak to? What would you want to say?
- If you were the artist, what title might you give to your artwork?
- What made you think to call it that?

Prepare the learning space so that there is sufficient room. It may be helpful to move desks to the side of the room.

Sit the children in a circle around the edge of the space.

Say: We have explored the painting with our eyes and talked about what we can see, what we think might be happening and what it might be like there.

Say: Now for our drama activity today we are going to Build the Set. We will recreate the scene from the painting, right here in the middle of the room.

Say: You will use your bodies to transform yourselves and simple objects that are around the room to create this scene from the painting.

Say: I am going to lead this activity but I will need your help. We will need to work together and you will need to use your imaginations and offer suggestions.

Say: Where shall we begin? How about with this blue pillar at the front and the door? Can I have two volunteers to take on the parts of these two structures?

Encourage and support the two children to hold their bodies to become the pillar and door. Ask the other children to help them to position themselves in a suitable place in the circle, in relation to the painting.

Work around the painting, pointing to various parts and ask the children to work out what people and objects should be represented. Decide where in the Build the Set space, that person or object should be placed.

When complete, if possible, take a photograph so that it can be compared with the painting side by side.

Say: Let's compare our Build the Set with Van Gogh's painting. What do you notice? Did we position ourselves well? Have we included everything from the painting? What did we do really well? What might have been improved? What did you do to 'become' the person or object?

What the Build the Set might look like...

Child A: We need a table and two chairs facing the front right here (*points to the lower part of the table*). I'll be the table and I'll make my arms like this (*makes a loop*) as the table top. Jimmy and Rashid - you be the chairs. Crouch down here Rashid, next to me. You too Jimmy. Let's shuffle up a bit so we are closer to the blue pillar.

Lead Adult: How many other tables do we need?

(Resulting discussion and placing of the tables.)

Child B: We need the person who is waiting on the tables in the white apron. I can do that. Should I go here in between these two tables? I am holding a tray of drinks like this.

Lead Adult: That looks exactly the right place.

Lead Adult: What can we see right at the back of the scene in the painting if we look closely?

Child C: It's a horse! It's a horse! I can do that. I'll go on all fours.