

JEAN MICHEL BASQUIAT—THE RADIANT CHILD

BIG IDEA:

Create a drawing or mixed media artwork inspired by the art of Jean-Michel Basquiat.



STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

- Introduce students to American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and local artist Andres Chapparo.
- Incorporate both words and images in artwork.
- Discuss Basquiat's use of symbolism, color, line, shape, space and emphasis to convey meaning about personal identity in art.
- IB Connections: Thinker, Knowledgeable, Risk taker.

ACTIVITY #1 & 2: Watch the link to the Basquiat TEDtalk video and read the attached biography and answer 5 out of the 8 questions of your choice below.

ACTIVITY #3: Create a blue print and drawing or mixed media artwork inspired by Basquiat.

Requirements:

- Must represent and communicate the style or influence of Basquiat.
- Have at least one human or animal figure.
- Have at least one-three words within artwork.
- Have a crown placed somewhere in your art.
- Have at least one folklore/hobo/personal symbol in your art (see examples)

QUESTIONS ABOUT BASQUIAT:

- Where was Jean-Michel Basquiat born?
- Basquiat got his start as a street artist under a pseudonym (a fictitious name). What was his pseudonym?
- Which were source material and inspiration for Jean-Michel Basquiat?
- What did Basquiat use to make his canvases when he did not have money?
- Jean-Michel Basquiat once said, "I am not a black artist, I am an artist." Is it important to think about the race of an artist, when looking at their work? Why or why not?
- Basquiat often made connections between his art and the social challenges of his time. What subjects do you think he would be painting, if he were alive today?
- How would you describe a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat to another viewer?
- How can we extend Basquiat's groundbreaking artistic approach to confront issues of racism, class struggle, social hypocrisy, while challenging perceptions and opening up new dialogues?

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF ARTSIT: Jean-Michel Basquiat (Haiti 1960-New York City 1988)

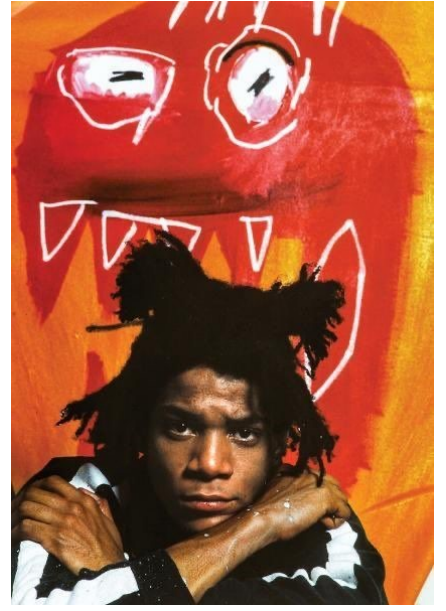
A poet, musician, and graffiti prodigy under the name "SAMO" in late 1970s New York, Jean-Michel Basquiat had honed his signature painting style of obsessive scribbling, elusive symbols and diagrams, and mask-and-skull imagery by the time he was 20. "I don't think about art while I work," he once said. "I think about life." A self-taught artist, Basquiat began drawing at an early age on sheets of paper his father, an accountant, brought home from the office. As he delved deeper into his creative side, his mother strongly encouraged him to pursue his artistic talents.

Basquiat drew his subjects from his own Caribbean heritage: his father was Haitian and his mother of Puerto Rican descent and a convergence of African-American, African, and Aztec cultural histories with Classical themes and contemporary heroes like athletes and musicians. Basquiat's diverse cultural heritage was one of his many sources of inspiration. Jean-Michel was also inspired at a young age when his mother gave him a Gray's Anatomy book after he was in an accident. He also looked to comic books, pop culture and paintings of other artists.

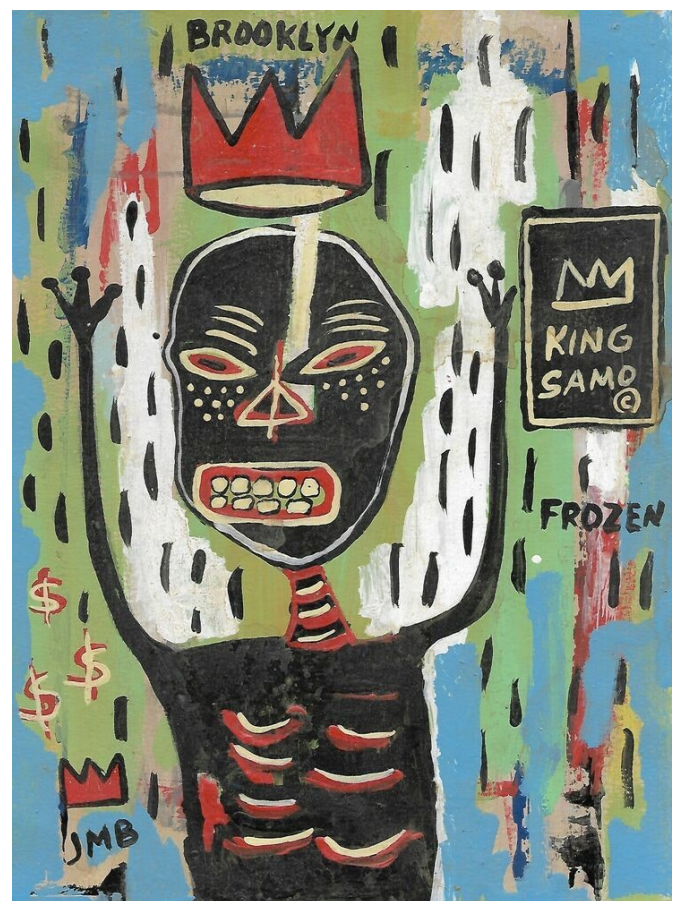
Jean-Michel had this saying, "boom for real" meaning he would take all the things in his world that inspire him, big or small, interpret them through his own vision and make them explode onto the canvas equally for us to look at and interpret. His art makes political, personal and social statements, often using free association texts, drawings and statements. Sometimes humorous, sometimes disturbing, his art is every bit as fun as it is heavy.

Often associated with Neo-expressionism, Basquiat received massive acclaim in only a few short years, showing alongside artists like Julian Schnabel, David Salle, and Francesco Clemente. In 1983, he met Andy Warhol, who would come to be a mentor and idol. The two collaborated on a series of paintings before Warhol's death in 1987, followed by Basquiat's own untimely passing a year later.

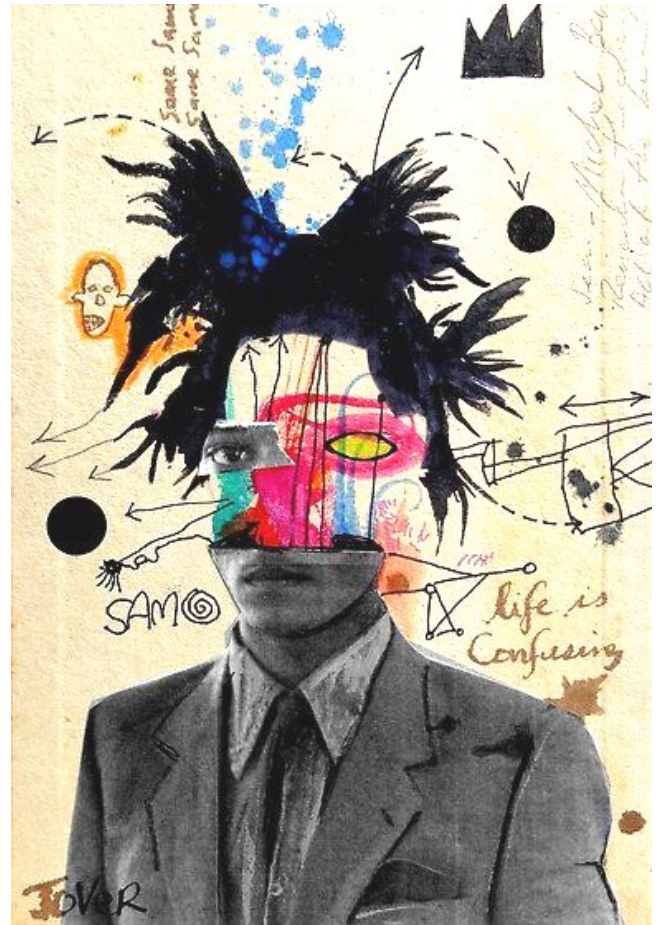
In May 2016, a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat sold for \$57.3 million. One year later, in 2017, another painting of his from 1982, *Untitled*, sold for \$110.5 million, making it the sixth-most-expensive work of art ever purchased at auction, and setting a record for an American artist.



WORKS BY JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

































BASQUIAT INSPIRED TRIBUTE WORK



BASQUIAT PORTRAIT INSPIRED TRIBUTE ARTWORK

You Pick: Jean-Michel Basquiat Portraits

























Directions: Choose one from each column.

Head	Eyes	Nose	Mouth	Body
				
				
				
				
				
				



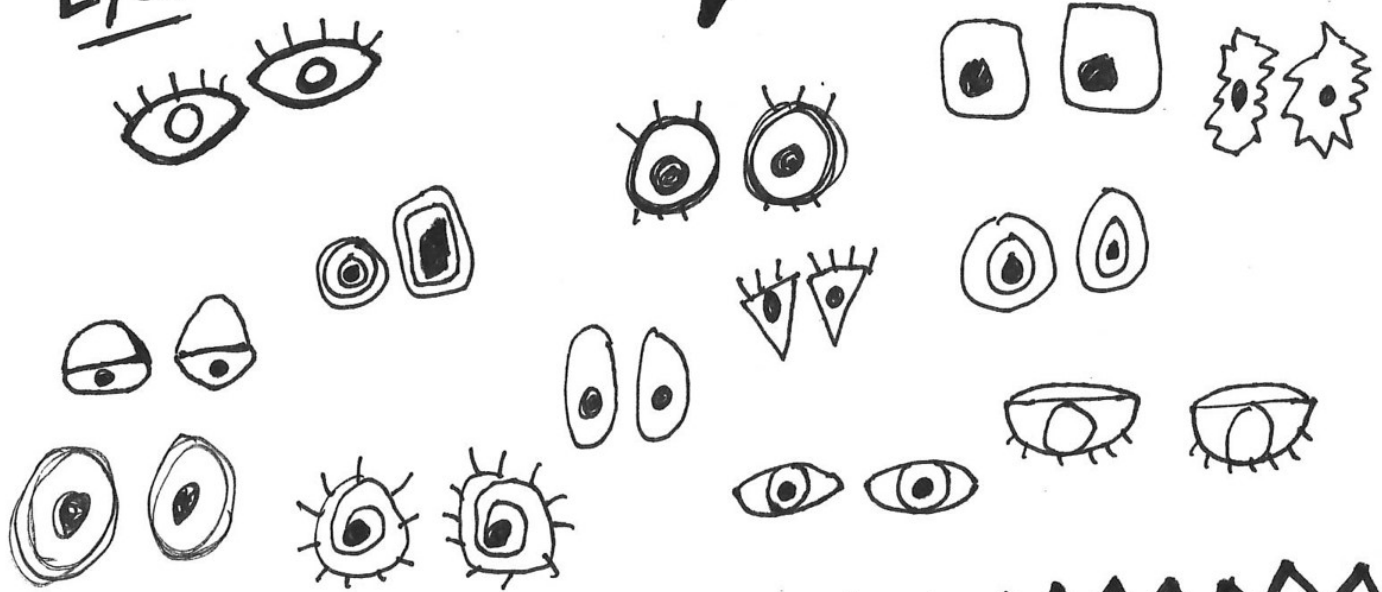
ROLL-A-BASQUIAT

	1st Roll	2nd Roll	3rd Roll	4th Roll	5th Roll
	Head	Body	Eyes	Nose	Mouth

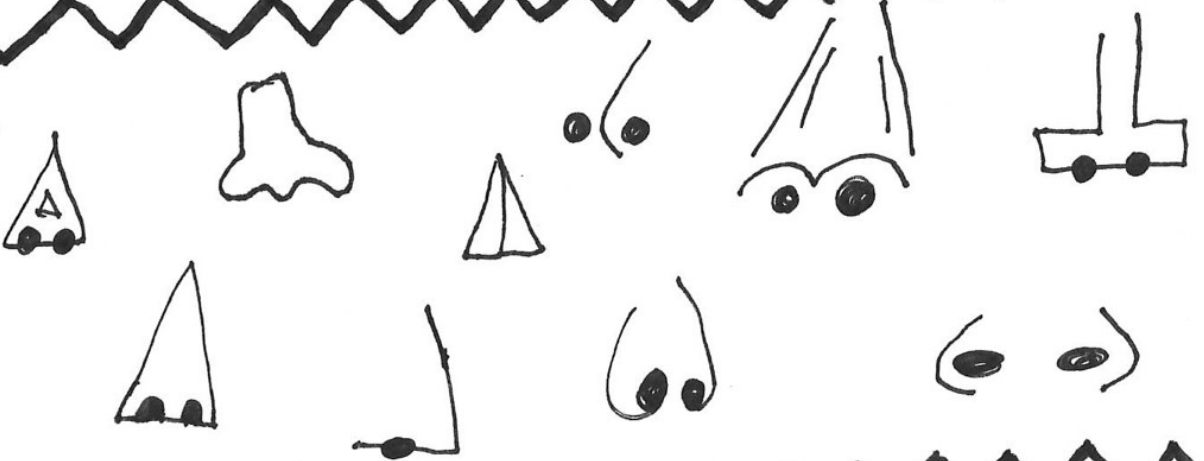
	Eyes	Nose & Mouth	Detail	Emotion
				anger
				pride
				sadness
				happy
				fear
				hope

Basquiat

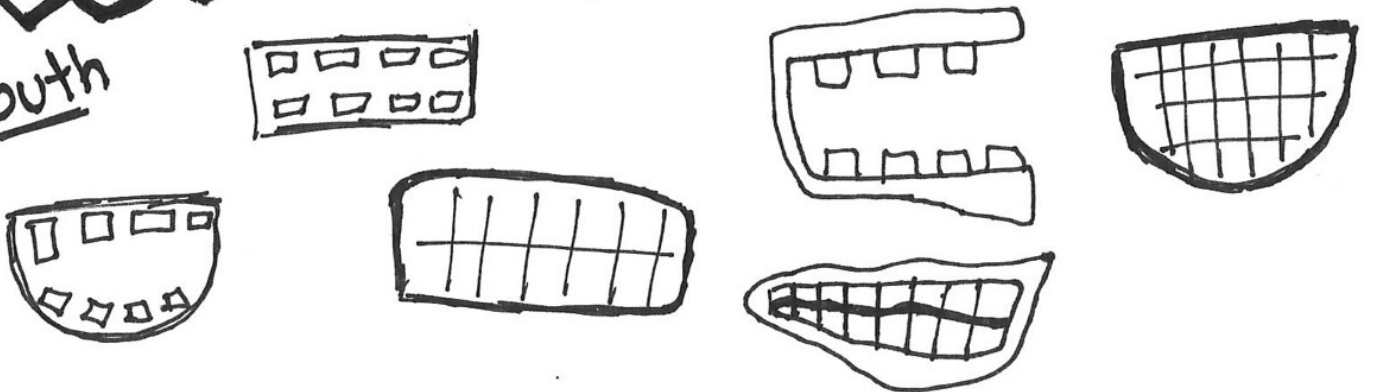
Eyes



Nose



Mouth





Basquiat was known to use many folklore and hobo symbols pictured to the right.

What symbols will you put in your artwork or what would a personalized symbol look like if you create your own?

These symbols, really hieroglyphs, appeared on posts and bridges, fences and outbuildings. Hobos scrawled the secret language with whatever writing implements were available—a lump of coal, chalk, a nail, or even a sharp-edged rock. It was a survival code that of hastily scrawled symbols that only the initiated would understand.

What is a Hobo?
Hobo Code
1 Minute History

 NO USE GOING THIS DIRECTION	 THIS WAY	 HIT THE ROAD! QUICK!	OR	 GOOD ROAD to FOLLOW	 ROAD SPOILED, full of other hobos	
 DOUBTFUL	 HALT	 THIS IS THE PLACE	 DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD	 THIS COMMUNITY indifferent to hobos	 NOTHING to be GAINED HERE	
 YOU CAN CAMP HERE	 FRESH WATER, SAFE CAMPSITE	 DANGEROUS DRINKING WATER	 O. K., ALL RIGHT	 GOOD PLACE for a HANDOUT	 ILL-TEMPERED MAN LIVES HERE	
 WELL GUARDED HOUSE	OR	 THE OWNER IS IN	 THE OWNER IS OUT	 A GENTLEMAN LIVES HERE	 THESE PEOPLE ARE RICH	
 KIND LADY LIVES HERE	 KIND WOMAN, tell pitiful story	 FOOD HERE if you WORK	OR	 RELIGIOUS TALK gets FREE MEAL	 RELIGIOUS TALK gets FREE MEAL	
 IF YOU ARE SICK, they'll care for you	 DOCTOR HERE, WON'T CHARGE	 FREE TELEPHONE	 ALCOHOL IN THIS TOWN	 YOU CAN SLEEP in HAYLOFT	OR	 YOU CAN SLEEP in HAYLOFT
 KEEP QUIET	 HOLD YOUR TONGUE	 BARKING DOG HERE	 VICIOUS DOG HERE	 BEWARE of FOUR DOGS	 EASY MARK, SUCKER	
 THE SKY is the LIMIT	 TROLLEY STOP	 GOOD PLACE to CATCH a TRAIN	 THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE	 MAN with a GUN LIVES HERE	 BE PREPARED to DEFEND YOURSELF	
 DISHONEST PERSON LIVES HERE	 COWARDS, will give, to get rid of you	 YOU'LL BE CURSED OUT	 A BEATING AWAITS YOU HERE	 POLICE HERE FROWN on HOBOS	 AUTHORITIES HERE ARE ALERT	
 THERE ARE THIEVES ABOUT	 CRIME COMMITTED, not safe for strangers	 JUDGE LIVES HERE	 COURTHOUSE, PRECINCT STATION	 OFFICER of LAW LIVES HERE	 JAIL	

NAME:

GRADE:

CORE:

JEAN MICHEL BASQUIAT: RADIANT CHILD

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