

Mask Making

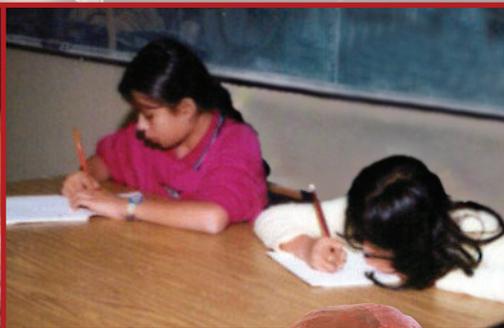
Adventures in Creativity

with **Judy Leventhal**



IN MASK MAKING ADVENTURES, students create sculptural masks that reflect various mask making traditions around the world from diverse cultures; address California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts; express artistic connections to their own cultural and geographic histories; utilize journal techniques for dialogue, descriptive writing, critical thinking and self reflection; and participate in a culminating event open to the school community. Outcomes include growing skills in mutual trust and collaboration; increases in classroom participation; motivation for achievement; confidence and competence in oral and written communication; and greater multi-cultural understanding.

Each aspect of the program is carefully orchestrated and involves collaboration between the artist and the classroom teacher. Young people learn to work within a classroom art studio system where there are ground rules, guidelines, and limits. Step by step students are guided into their own creative process. As they work with clay, images emerge from inside that are surprising and heartfelt. Each mask tells a story, a blend of past experiences, current events and future aspirations. In classroom dialogues, students share their innate curiosity, wonder, and desire for self expression through the variety of media. Students develop systematic vocabulary, and prepare descriptive written and oral presentations, using concrete sensory detail to support unified impressions of people, places, events and experiences.



“As I was making my mask, ideas and more ideas just kept coming...”



“The Eagle symbolizes freedom. As a Navajo, I see the eagle soaring over the land of my people.” — Ryan, age 8



“Tiger Dancer is a colorful mask representing my Filipino-Chinese culture. We have a festival called Chinese New Year and a Lion Dance. My mask looks like the dancer at the end of the dance...”

— Antoinette, age 11

Official Partner of



Creativity in every classroom

"I am part of the Aztec culture. My mask helps me express my thoughts and feelings about my culture..." — Jasmine, age 10



"Working with clay helped me think and show my emotions. Thoughts about problems faded away, because I was really concentrating."



"I am African-American...I looked at a book on African masks, then I used my imagination. I had a lot of challenges: I realized I could do a lot of problem-solving. In making my mask, I learned a lot of self control..." — Joshua, age 14

Each aspect of the program will support the new Common Core Student Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History & Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. For example, based on the mask making experience, 3rd grade students will plan and deliver an informative presentation, organize ideas around major points of information, and include supporting details; 4th grade students will plan and deliver a narrative presentation, and express and relate ideas, observations and recollections. 6th-8th grade students will conduct short research projects to respond to a mask related question, draw on several information sources, and generate additional related questions.

"Ms. Leventhal skillfully integrates visual arts...with language arts acquisition, consistent with content standards in English Language Development and Language Arts as reflected in students' written journal responses, classroom participation, standardized test scores, oral presentations, and community events. Her programs at the school have contributed to our receiving the 2004 Bravo Award. Ms. Leventhal will bring substantial knowledge, commitment and experience..."

— Beth Bythrow, Principal,
Multnomah Street Elementary, LAUSD



Judy Leventhal's life-long interest in masks began in early adolescence in a middle school history and social science classroom. Here, her artistic imagination was ignited, as she viewed masks from West Africa, Indonesia, Mexico and the Native Americas. Responding to the challenges in her adolescence, she reached out intuitively to the mask for a symbolic rite of passage into young adulthood. These events are the inspiration for the Mask Making Adventures program, and its purpose in serving young people facing a variety of challenges in today's world.

Her life experience includes a multifaceted career as visual artist, consultant, academic tutor, published author, art therapist, and master's prepared and licensed clinical social worker. She has over twenty years school based artist-in-residence work experience with children and youth of diverse cultures, academic abilities, learning strengths and challenges.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Maximum # of students: Varies depending on program selected. Optimum size up to 35 students.

Duration Negotiable: Usually 14–22 sessions of 2 hours each, two times a week, ranging from 7 to 11 weeks depending on program chosen.

- **Ceramic Clay Mask Making Adventures in Creativity Program:** 14 sessions, 2 hours per session for 28 hours of group and individualized instruction plus 2 hour culminating event
- **Clay and Paper Mache Mask Making Adventures in Creativity Program:** 22 sessions, 2 hours per session for 44 hours of group and individualized instruction plus 2 hour culminating event

Space Requirements: Indoor/outdoor tables and chairs; sufficient air circulation within the classroom; secure storage space for works in progress; wall/table space for art displays; classroom rug or linoleum floors (no wood floors/ or wood floors need to be covered with drop cloths).

Technical Requirements: Overhead projector and screen.

Fees:

- Depends on selection of the program, class size and length of program selected
- Artist Fee – \$100 per hour includes teacher pre-planning meeting; student journals; daily lesson plans; preparation, presentation, documentation, evaluation and culminating event
- Art materials \$40 per student (7 weeks of 2 sessions per week estimate \$1,400 based on 35 students; 11 weeks of 2 sessions per week based on 35 students estimate \$2,200)
- Travel time to and from site 55 cents per mile

For scheduling or for more information, please contact Judy Leventhal at 323.472.3203 or judyleventhalarts@gmail.com



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Judy Leventhal • Los Angeles, Ca 90041

phone: 323.472.3203 • fax: 323.255.5900 • email: judyleventhalarts@gmail.com • www.judyleventhalarts.com