

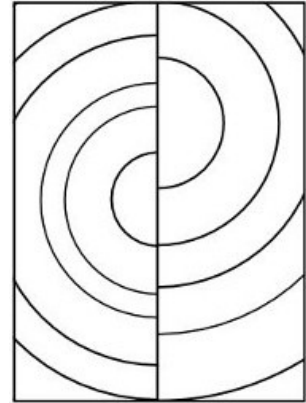


CASA SONIA

An activity based on Sonia Delaunay's work

by Norberto Ojeda Zamora

Escuela Oficial de Idiomas Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Objectives:

- To make students infer certain information about somebody's personality from quotations.
- To infer information through questions about the artist.
- To develop students writing skills by creating a 50-word mini story.
- To enhance students creativity through the use of colour and shapes.
- To get to know Sonia Delaunay's work.

Material:

- Sonia Delaunay's quotation cards
- Sonia's coat coloured sheet.
- 4/5 copies of Delaunay's illustrations. Give each group a set of 10 at least.
- Power Point with Questions and Delaunay's Biography

Procedure:

- 1) Quotations: Tell students you are going to give them some quotations by Sonia Delaunay. (Explain what a quotation is, just in case students are unfamiliar with the term. A quotation is a phrase or short piece of writing taken from a longer work of literature, poetry, etc. or



Developing English Communicative Competence Through Art

what someone else has said. If necessary, write or project one of the quotations on the board to explain it.

- a. Ask students to sit in small groups of 3-4 and give each group a set of quotations .
- b. Ask the group to guess and imagine what kind of person might be Sonia Delaunay as a person and as an artist according to her quotations.
- c. Allow 3-4 minutes to let them guess. Help students with unknown vocabulary, if demanded.
- d. Once finished, elicit answers with whole group. “What’s she like as a person/artist? How do you imagine her life?”
- e. Idea: If desired, you can print a copy of Sonia’s paintings on one side of a sheet a painting by Sonia Delaunay and on the other side the quotations as seen on pdf. Then, cut the quotations following the lines. So you have a the quotations and on the other side a part of the painting in a puzzle. Once finished the “Quotation activity“, ask students to put all the pieces together and make the puzzle and have the full painting.
- f. You can get the puzzle image here:
<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/collection/artists/delaunay-sonia>

2) Biography Guessing.

- a. This is a guessing activity where students have to infer information from a set of given questions. Tell them that this is an imaginative activity with a lot of possibilities.
- b. Allow some time to work in their groups, once finished, project ppt on board and feedback.
- c. Variation: This activity can also be done by giving a set of questions and to ask the students to guess what her life might be.

3) Tell students they are going to guess some important facts about her biography. Project the PPT SONIA DELAUNAY questions, elicit student’s answers. Check answers. The objective of this task is to get a general idea of who Sonia Delaunay was and the importance of her contribution to Art.

4) Working with Sonia Delaunay’s art.

- a. Explain that Sonia Delaunay matched primary and secondary colours (red with green, yellow with purple, and blue with orange) to create a kind of visual vibration. Together with her husband, they created the art movement called Orphism.
- b. Give each group a set of paintings, ask students to choose two paintings from the



Developing English Communicative Competence Through Art

- ones given.
- c. Encourage them to look at them for a minute and ask them to tell their partners the reasons why they have chosen those paintings:
 - i. Why have you chosen them?
 - ii. What makes these pictures different from the others you have seen?
 - iii. What about colours?
 - d. Now, ask students to look again at the paintings and to write 2 or 3 words the painting may evoke them. When they have finished writing their words, tell students they are going to write a mini story containing “these words” as the paintings are going to be the illustrations of the story:
 - i. Encourage them to write a mini 50-word story with the words they have written.
 - ii. Tell students that that the two paintings need to be the illustrations of their own story.
 - iii. Allow some time to share their stories or to be read aloud in small groups.
 - iv. If considered, tell students to read their stories to the rest of the class while they show the illustrations.
- 5) Give students a copy of “Sonia’s coat sheet”. Explain students that in this task they are going to use their creativity.
- a. Give a copy of “Sonia’s coat” sheet.
 - b. Show students a picture of Sonia Delaunay’s coat and tell them some information about her work as a designer. (See information provided). Sonia was a very important designer and all Hollywood stars wanted to wear one of her designs or models. Nowadays, she can be compared to any current famous designer.
 - c. Encourage students to design and colour their own coats inspired in Sonia’s coat BUT make sure their stories are also included in their coats.
 - d. This activity can be set for homework.
 - e. Once in class, display all coats so everybody can see them. Encourage students to explain their designs and stories.



Useful information about Sonia Delaunay

- Sonia Delaunay. Art, design and fashion. Interactive publication. Thyssen-Bornemisza Museo Nacional <http://pdigital.museothyssen.org/index.html?revista=205864550&pagina=-39007>
- Sonia Delaunay Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza
<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/collection/artists/delaunay-sonia>
- Wikipedia. Sonia Delaunay https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Sonia_Delaunay
- Sonia Delaunay - 90 designs and paintings <http://www.wikiart.org/en/sonia-delaunay>
- Sonia Delaunay: the avant-garde queen of loud, wearable art . The Guardian . Article. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/mar/27/sonia-delaunay-avant-garde-queen-art-fashion-vibrant-tate-modern>
- Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocXDOl4WqY8&feature=related>
- Sonia Delaunay: a life of contrasts. Article.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/art-features/8668887/Sonia-Delaunay-a-life-of-contrasts.html>
- Who is Sonia Delaunay? Tate Museum. <http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/ey-exhibition-sonia-delaunay/delaunay-introduction>
- BBC Sonia Delaunay Radio Program
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05qgcn8#play>