First Americans Museum
OKLAHOMA

Portraits Unfolded

Activity Length: 10–30 minutes
Recommended Ages: 6 and up
Key Content Areas: Visual Arts Native American Studies, English Language Arts

Activity Description:
Inspired by European Surrealists' Exquisite Corpse drawings, this project engages creativity, collaboration, and contemporary Indigenous themes.

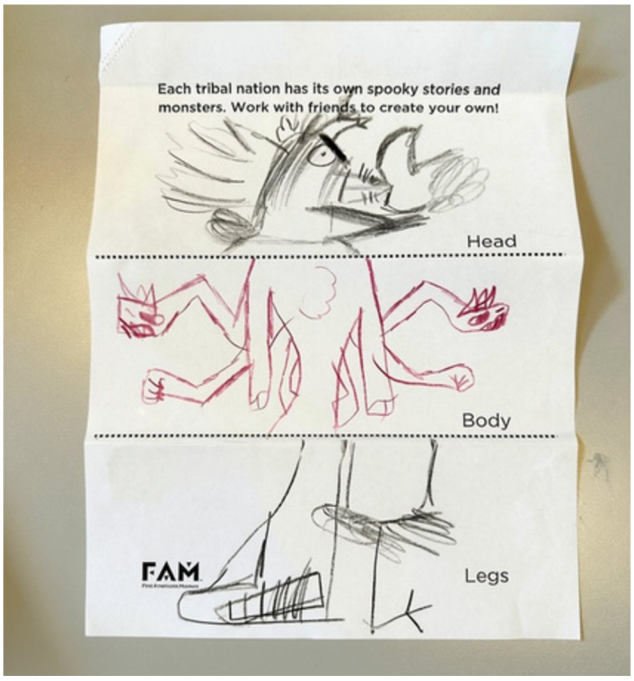


Image courtesy of FAM.

Supplies Needed:
- Portraits Unfolded templates
- Colored pencils, pens, or markers
- Reference materials
- Projector or smartboard (optional)

Instructions:
1. Explain to your group that you will be creating unique works of art through a collaborative game.
2. Using the provided template, demonstrate how to fold a piece of paper into thirds.
3. Group members will create a unique "creature" by each drawing the head, body, or legs. The image should remain folded to prevent others from seeing the overall drawing they are adding to.
4. Once a drawing is complete, the group may unfold the image to reveal the full figure. Silliness may ensue!
5. Use the prompts from the other provided templates to create more group drawings inspired by First American monsters or by First American fashion.
6. You may need to provide group members with necessary context for these additional prompts (see back for details).

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Portraits Unfolded, cont.

Key Concepts:

- As Native fashion demonstrates, First American cultures are dynamic and exist in the present-day.
- Storytelling—whether about "real" animals or imagined monsters—is an important cultural practice among First American communities.

Adaptation/Extension Ideas:

- Use the completed drawing as a creative writing prompt. What is the image's backstory?
- Assign three jigsaw readings from the *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters* book. Pair students with members from other groups and instruct them to contribute to the drawing with something inspired from their story. Once the drawing is complete, ask members of each group to retell the story they just read to the others.
- Use butcher paper to create a life-sized collaborative drawings.
- Create your own drawing prompts based on your instructional needs.

Special Notes:

- Use the first template to help group members learn the basic procedures of the activity. They may create whatever image they want.
- To avoid the accidental depiction of stereotypes, consider skipping the Native fashion template if your group is unfamiliar with First American peoples and cultures.

Reference Materials:

Jones, D.S. (2021). *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories*. Scholastic Nonfiction.

Kramer, K. (2015). *Native Fashion Now: North American Indian Style*. Melmonico Books/Prestel.

Consider pulling images from these texts together in a slide deck for students to use as inspiration for their drawings.

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