

Mini Art Lesson:

Untitled (Fang, Crow, and Fruit) by Beauford Delaney



Honor Pride Month and Black queer artists with this Mini Art Lesson exploring the work of **Beauford Delaney**. Influenced by Harlem Renaissance philosopher Alain Locke, Delaney spent his artistic career visually exploring the concepts of Pan-Africanism as well as his own identity. This lesson shares step-by-step instructions to create offering/honoring bowls with kids ages 2–6 and a still-life drawing lesson for kids ages 7 and up.

**FOR AGES 2–6:
LET’S PLAY**

Step 1: What does it mean to honor someone? Talk with your child about important figures and why we honor them. Then, choose one person they would like to honor for this project.

Step 2: Now, find a large bowl that’s big enough to carry 4 to 7 small objects. (A)

Step 3: Ask your child about their chosen figure and what objects they think might honor them. Find a photo or drawing of their figure as well. (B)

Step 4: Now, gather 4 to 7 objects that honor their chosen figure and arrange them in a large bowl. (C)

A



B

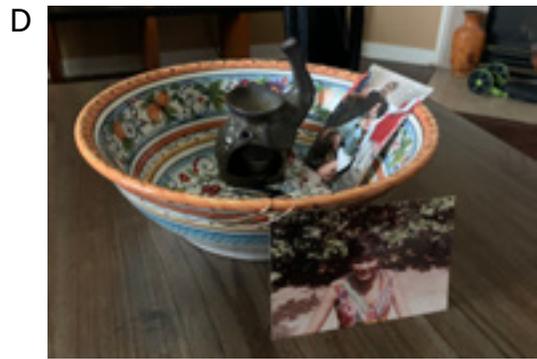


C



FOR AGES 2-6:
LET'S PLAY (cont.)

Step 5: Once you're done, place the drawing or photo of their honored figure next to the bowl. (D)



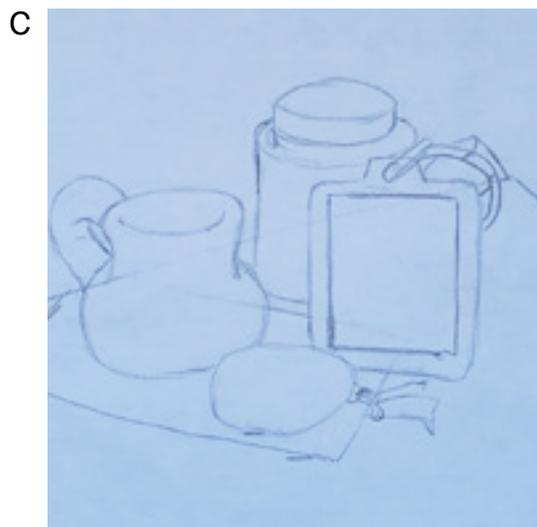
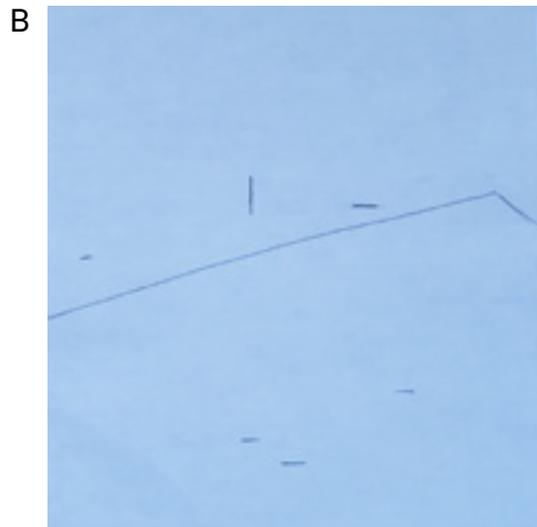
FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE

Delaney arrived in New York during the Harlem Renaissance. It was a time of exciting artistic creation, but it also coincided with the Great Depression. So much like today, Black Americans came together to express joy and to celebrate their culture despite many hardships. For this lesson, we'll take inspiration from Delaney's work to create still lifes that reflect on our own culture. All you need is paper, pencil, and some objects from home.

Step 1: Find 3 to 5 objects that you feel are connected to your culture. Do these objects speak to each other? How does the composition affect the meaning? (A)

Step 2: Arrange the objects on a surface. Now, measure out where each item will be on your page. (B)

Step 3: Block out the basic shapes. (C)



FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE (cont.)

Step 4: Add depth by drawing in the shadows. Tip: use your pencil to help guide your scale and angles. (D)

Step 5: Finish up by adding details and refining your lines. (E)

Does this drawing tell a story? What does it reveal about your identity?

D



E



FOR AGES 7+:
LET'S CREATE
BONUS!

In his painting, Delaney features a sculpture created by the Fang people of Cameroon and colors associated with the Pan-African movement. How can symbols and color create a more powerful artwork?

From top: Beauford Delaney (American, 1901–1979). *Untitled (Fang Sculpture, Crow and Fruit)*, 1945. Oil on canvas. Brooklyn Museum; Brooklyn Museum Fund for African American Art in honor of Arnold Lehman, A. Augustus Healy Fund and Ella C. Woodward Memorial Fund, 2014.73. © Estate of Beauford Delaney, by permission of Derek L. Spratley, Esq., Court Appointed Administrator. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum); For ages 2–6: (Photos: Tayler Milburn, Brooklyn Museum) For ages 7+: (Photos: Noé Gaytán, Brooklyn Museum)