**March-Lines and George Rouault**

Objectives:

* Be able to tell one fact about artist George Rouault
* Describe a portrait
* Understand that lines express feelings

Vocabulary:

* *Line-a continuous mark made by pencil, pen, or brush*

What You Need:

* George Rouault “The Clown”
* Sample faces of rounded, curved lines and straight lines
* Face handouts (one per student)
* Large dry erase board (in teacher classroom)

Discussion:

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Today we are going to talk a little bit about lines. What types of lines can you think of? (Chart responses on dry erase board if desired.) Can anyone come up and draw an original line for me? (Allow students to come up and draw a line while asking others how the drawn line makes them feel. Do you know that artists can use lines to say different things? An artist can make someone look happy, sad, or mean just by making lines a certain way. Here are some examples.

First, I am going to make a boy using many rounded, curved lines. How does this boy look? (See sample faces handout to help guide your drawing. Then add the second boy using curved lines) How is this boy different?

Now I am going to make a boy using lots of straight lines. See, I am making his face long and thin with straight lines on the sides. How does he look? Can anyone change the way he looks by changing one line?

(Display “The Clown”) This is a picture of a clown painted by a famous artist named George Rouault. George Rouault is considered by many to be the greatest religious painter of the 20th century. He grew up very poor as the son of a cabinetmaker. When he was 14 years old studied to be a maker of stained glass. However, during his apprenticeship he attended night classes at the School of Fine Arts. He is known as a printmaker and illustrator of the famous book Miserere.

Look at the clown closely with our artist eyes. How do you think this clown feels? Why? Look at all the straight lines. Do you like this picture? Why or why not? Can anyone tell me what a picture of a person’s face is called? (a portrait) How could you change this picture to make the clown happier?

Are you ready to make your own line portraits? In a minute I am going to give each of you a piece of paper. On your paper you will see two ovals. On the first oval, I want to you to make a face using only straight lines. On the second oval, make a face using only curved lines. You decide what kind of face you want to draw.

Student Activity:

1. Pass out handout (one per student)
2. Allow students time to work on their two portraits. While students are working circulate to ask students what they think about their faces made.
3. If time permits, allow students to share their drawings or have a gallery walk.

(A gallery walk is where all students leave their work at their working area and all students stand up. Students circulate around their table to look at everyone else’s work before continuing to the next table. The gallery walk ends after each child has rotated around all the tables to view his peer’s work.)

Books and Resources: