



Country of Origin: Mexico

Jose Posada- The Art of Protest Workshop

Jose Posada: The Art of Protest Description Grades 6th - College

What is the art of protest and why is it important? Discover political satire through prints created by Jose Guadalupe Posada, who was adept at persuading viewers to analyze society and bring about protest to various political views of his day. Students learn how satirical images can spark protest or social critique and will be tasked with creating their own satirical print focused on a current issue.

Colorado Standards: Social Studies, Visual Arts, Language Arts

Objectives: Students will be introduced to the concept of satire through the work of Jose Posada and his illustrations. Through these works, students will learn how art is used to convey subtle messages through artistic images and words to persuade them to a cause or give light to a certain perspective on current events. Students will learn how to reflect on current events and interpret them in their own print, as satire and/or persuasion.

Exit Ticket/Deliverable: Through the work of Posada and modern examples of satire, students will be able to reflect on current issues they feel passionate about, and be able to articulate those feelings into an artistic design turned into a print. Students will understand the term satire and how it has been used to mock or persuade. They will understand how to write a satirical poem to accompany their print.

Art Component: Students will create their own personal broadside print in honor of Jose Posada's work. Students will sketch their viewpoint on a current event, transfer it to a soft material to use as a template for the print. They will then use printing ink and brayers to apply ink to the template and a tortilla press to press the inked image onto a paper, creating their personalized broadside. Once this step is complete, they will write prose to further solidify their position.

Vocabulary: Brayer, Broadside, Etching, Political Cartoon, Satire, Political Satire, Protest, Revolution

Jose Posada: The Art of Protest Vocabulary Descriptions

Brayer- (n) a hand-tool used historically in printing and printmaking to break up and "rub out" ink before it was "beaten" using inking balls or composition rollers. The word is derived from the verb to "bray", meaning "to break, pound, or grind small, as in a mortar".

Broadsides- (n) A type of inexpensive publication that was very common between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. Broadsides were larger pieces of paper. The text of the story was printed on only one side of the page, and there was usually a large illustration to go with it.

Calavera- (n) The word *calavera* (or *calaverita* in the diminutive) means "skull" in Spanish, but the term is also used to refer to a kind of poem that is written and published especially around the season of Day of the Dead. The word *calavera* is generally used playfully: in the different contexts that it is used, it does not have a gloomy or macabre connotation. Calaveras remind us of the transitory nature of life, that our time here on Earth is limited, and that it's acceptable (and maybe even desirable) to play and poke fun at ideas about death

Etching- (n) Etching is traditionally the process of using strong acid or mordant to cut into the unprotected parts of a metal surface to create a design in intaglio (incised) in the metal. As a method of printmaking, it is, along with engraving, the most important technique for old master prints, and remains in wide use today.

In traditional pure etching, a metal (usually copper, zinc or steel) plate is covered with a waxy ground which is resistant to acid. The artist then scratches off the ground with a pointed etching needle where he or she wants a line to appear in the finished piece, exposing the bare metal. The *échope*, a tool with a slanted oval section, is also used for "swelling" lines. The plate is then dipped in a bath of acid, technically called the mordant (French for "biting") or etchant, or has acid washed over it. The acid "bites" into the metal (it converts metal into salt solution and hydrogen) to a depth depending on time and acid strength, leaving behind the drawing skillfully carved into the wax on the plate. The remaining ground is then cleaned off the plate. For first and renewed uses the plate is inked in any chosen non-corrosive ink all over and the surface ink drained and wiped clean, leaving ink in the etched forms. The plate is then put through a high-pressure printing press together with a sheet of paper (often moistened to soften it). The paper picks up the ink from the etched lines, making a print. The process can be repeated many times; typically, several hundred impressions (copies) could be printed before the plate shows much sign of wear. The work on the plate can be added to or repaired by re-waxing and further etching; such an etching (plate) may have been used in more than one state.

Protest- (n) a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something.

(v) 1. express an objection to what someone has said or done. 2. publicly demonstrate strong objection to an official policy or course of action. 3. publicly demonstrate an objection to (a policy or course of action).

Satire- (n) the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

Political Satire- satire that specializes in gaining entertainment from politics; it has also been used with subversive intent where political speech and dissent are forbidden by a regime, as a method of advancing political arguments where such arguments are expressly forbidden. Political satire is usually distinguished from political protest or political dissent, as it does not necessarily carry an agenda nor seek to influence the political process. While occasionally it may, it more commonly aims simply to provide entertainment. By its very nature, it rarely offers a constructive view in itself; when it is used as part of protest or dissent, it tends to simply establish the error of matters rather than provide solutions.

Revolution- (n) a forcible overthrow of a government or social order, in favor of a new system.

Political Cartoon- An editorial cartoonist, also known as a political cartoonist, is an artist who draws editorial cartoons that contain some level of political or social commentary. Their cartoons are used to convey and question an aspect of daily news or current affairs in a national or international context. Political cartoonists generally adopt a caricaturist style of drawing, to capture the likeness of a politician or subject. They may also employ humor or satire to ridicule an individual or group, emphasize their point of view or comment on a particular event.

