

## 2020 VALS – Chosen Art Project

The grade 6 curriculum for Art is centered on one of the main principles in art and that is Balance. We talk about what types of balance there are in Art and why we would want to care about that.

This year, I chose to use the work of Kimmy Cantrell as our inspiration to create our own one of a kind masks using Assymetrical (or informal) balance as our main principal.

The following pages will introduce what balance is in art and the elements we use to achieve that.

Then we will introduce the Artist who inspired the project following with some examples of his work along with the works of Picasso, who inspired Kimmy Cantrell!

I have also added examples student works that were completed this year to help inspire you, but please htey are only for reference, I encourage you to use your imagination and create your own wonderful wacky cubism inspired Mask!

### **Materials list:**

- Cardboard (thinner cardboard cuts easier)
- Oil pastels (crayons are okay) The reason we use the pastels is because the rich colours stand out perfectly on the cardboard giving it a faux fired clay look!
- Scissors
- Blank paper to “sketch” out your ideas
- Pencil
- China marker (if not a black crayon works)
- Tacky glue
- Xacto knife or similiar to help cut out any finicky pieces

# Balance in Art refers to the ways in which elements (line, shapes, colours textures etc.) are arranged in the art piece.

## There are 3 types balance:

- **Symmetrical (or Formal Balance):** Symmetrical balance refers to an even distribution of visual weight on either side of an axis
- **Asymmetrical (or Informal Balance):** the elements are not identical on either side of the axis line, yet refers to a physiological or "felt" balance.
- **Radial Balance:** Is a visual balance based on a circle with its design extending from center. A star, the iris around each pupil of your eyes, a wheel with spokes, and a daisy (among many flowers and other plant forms) are examples of radial Balance.

## Elements used to achieve balance in Art are :

- **Colour:**  
Light colours -lighter in weight. Black is the heaviest.  
Bright colours are visually heavier than dull colours and warm colours (Yellow, Orange, Red). They visually expand an area in size  
Cool colours (Blue, Green Purple) tend to contract an area. Transparent areas visually weigh less than opaque areas.
- **Shape:** small shapes are light, larger shapes are heavier. Grouping a few small shapes together can have equal weight with one larger shape. Complex geometric shapes (hexagons, trapezoids, etc) weigh more than simple geometric shapes (circle, square, etc)
- **Line:** Light thin lines are lighter, rough thick lines are heavier  
**Texture:** light smooth textures weigh less than dark jagged (lots of pattern) textures
- **Value:** lighter values weigh less than darker values on the value scale

# Meet the Artist who has inspired this years VALS project: Kimmy Cantrell



Kimmy Cantrell discovered his artistic vision in high school when he fell in love with clay in an art class. After his first hand-built vase was chosen for display at the local board of education, his teacher suggested he study art in college. Unfortunately at that time he didn't take the advice, but instead studied business.

After 20 years of working in the business world, he accepted a job in a small rural town and it was then that he reconnected with his passion for working with clay.

Kimmy uses many forms to tell his stories, from free standing sculptures to still life collages.

He uses **asymmetry** to challenge traditional definitions of beauty.

“I want to show the beauty within flaws,” he explains. “Imperfections tell stories that are far more compelling than perfection.”

***Today's art project will be focused on creating your own Kimmy Cantrell inspired Mask!***

We can see in the following examples how he is inspired by “cubism” (an art movement at the turn of the century.) It is called Cubism because the artworks look cubical or use other geometrical shapes.

It aims to show all of the possible viewpoints of a person or an object all at once on a 2D plane



Kimmy uses clay to create his amazing sculptured masks. You can see that his use of colour is bold and bright. He uses all sorts of shapes and textures to create interesting works of art!



Picasso uses bright bold colours and simple geometric shapes to represent facial features. These elements are placed Assymetry to balance it all out.



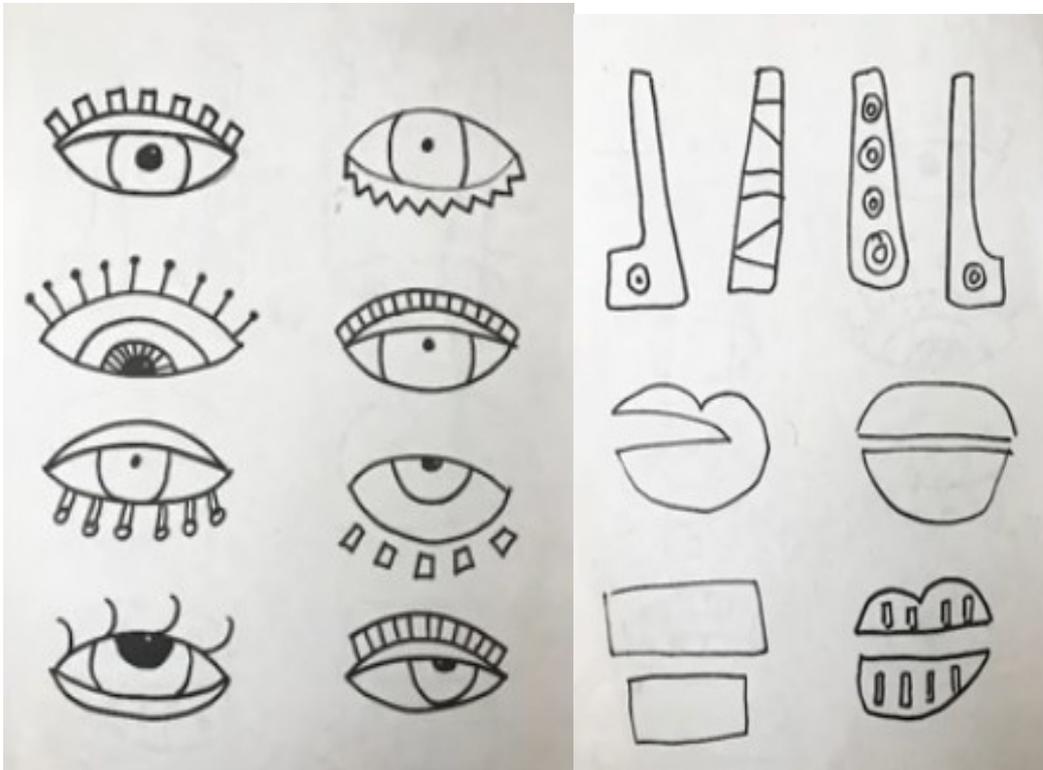
**Student Masks inspired by Kimmy Cantrell's work**



## Steps to creating your own Kimmy inspired Mask!

Gather all your materials together as per the material list given on the first page. You can make your mask as big as you want. I wouldn't suggest making it too small as it is a mask after all!

Below are some examples of ways you can draw the facial features in an abstract way.

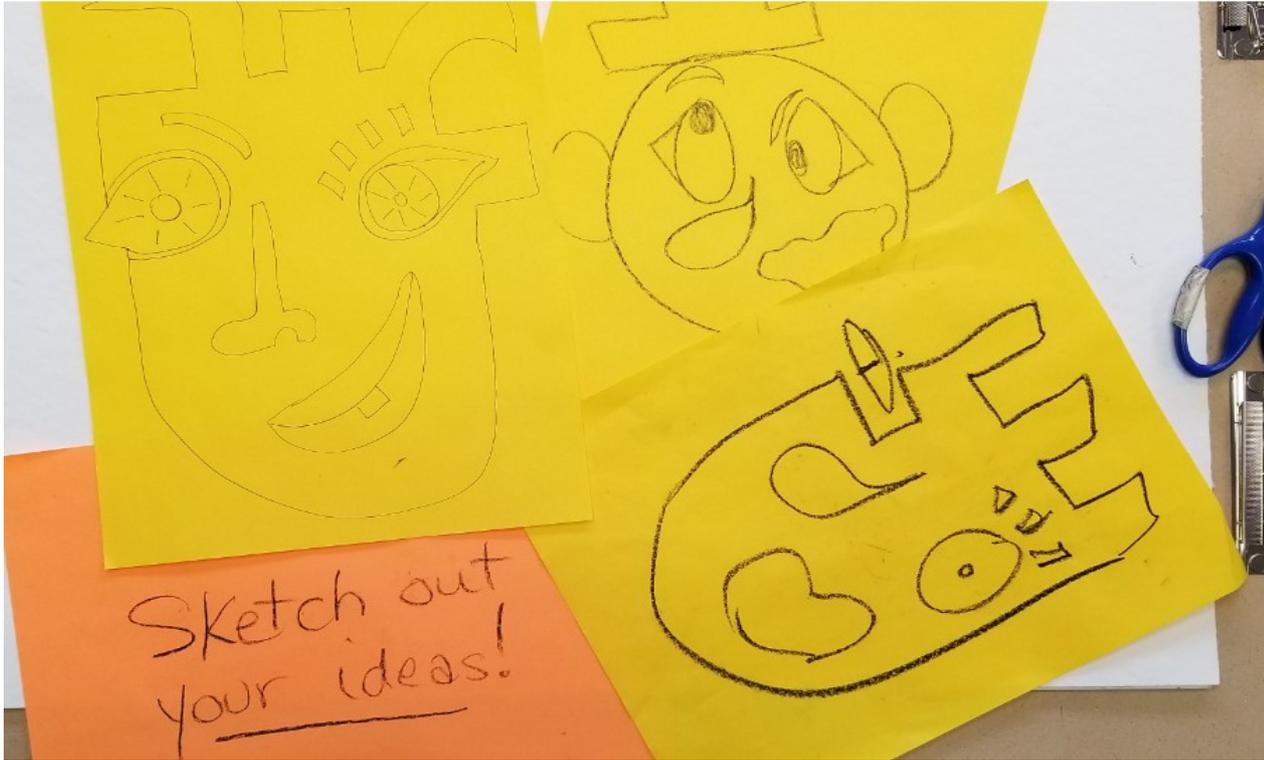


This student used his cardboard in an imaginative way by peeling away the top layer to reveal the corrugated layer below! Great Textural choice!

Before you begin, take a moment and use the blank paper to sketch out ideas on what you want your mask to look like, what features you would like etc.

A sketch is just a quick layout, so you don't want to spend too much time on it, you most likely will make some changes during the process anyway, that the way our imaginations works once it's gets inspired!

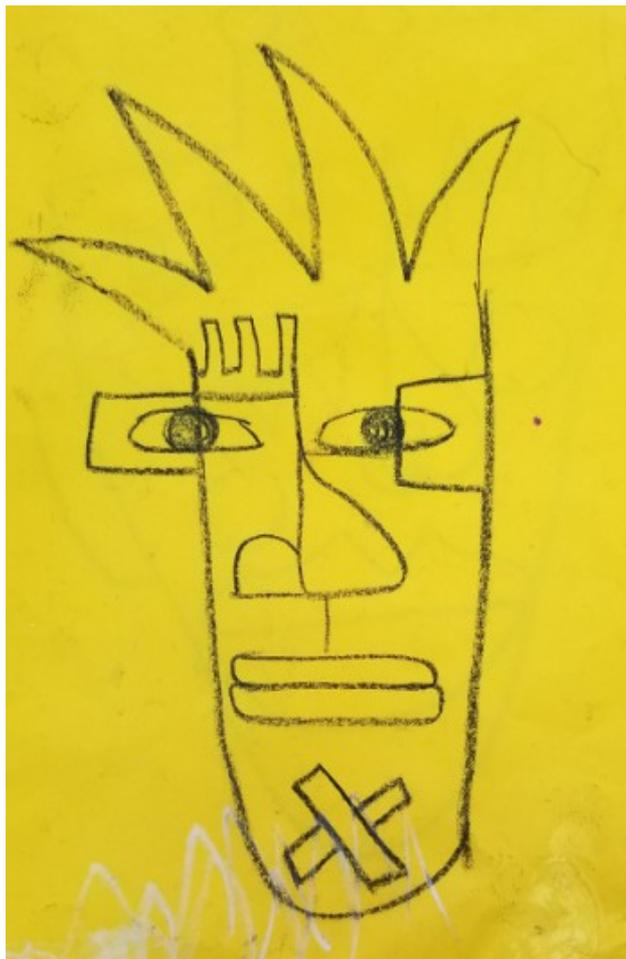
You do not need to colour it as it is a SKETCH only. :-)



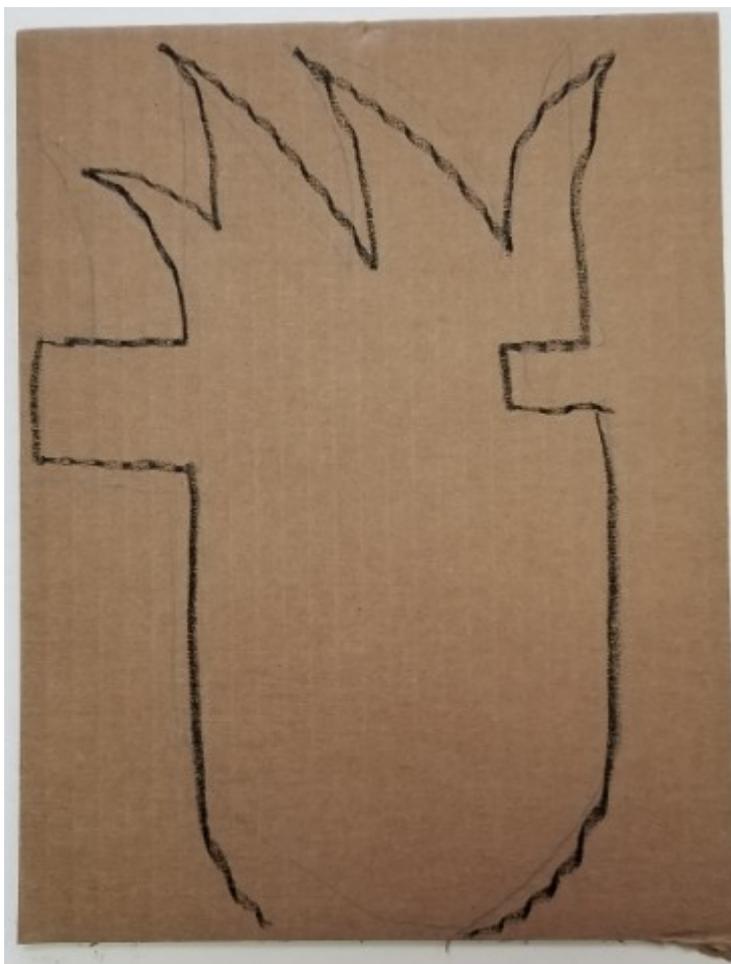
Select a piece of cardboard to the size of the mask that you want to create!



Once you finish your sketch, use the china marker or black crayon and copy that look on to your cardboard. It'll show up nice a clear so that it'll be easier to cut out. You'll see that it's not exact but it's close! That's okay!



Do not draw the facial features on the cardboard because you will be colouring the base first and then adding on the facial components after you have all your colours choices completed. Refer to your sketch for placements.

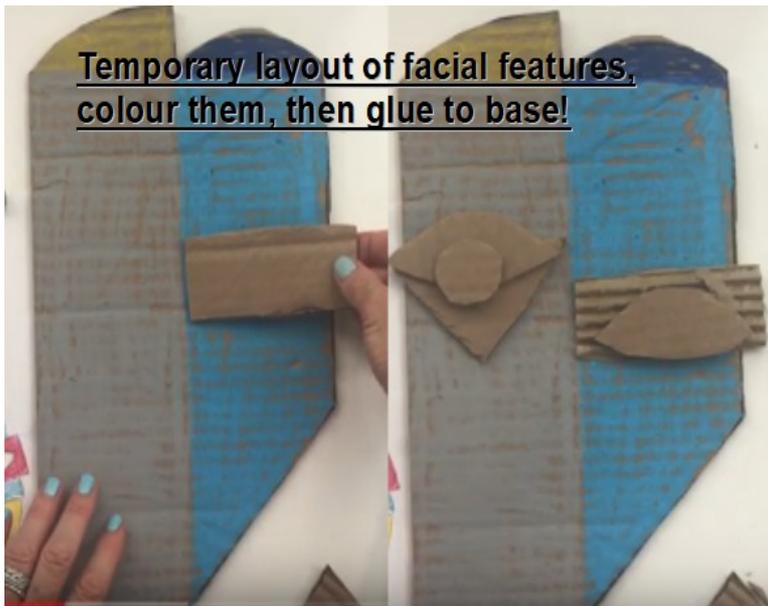
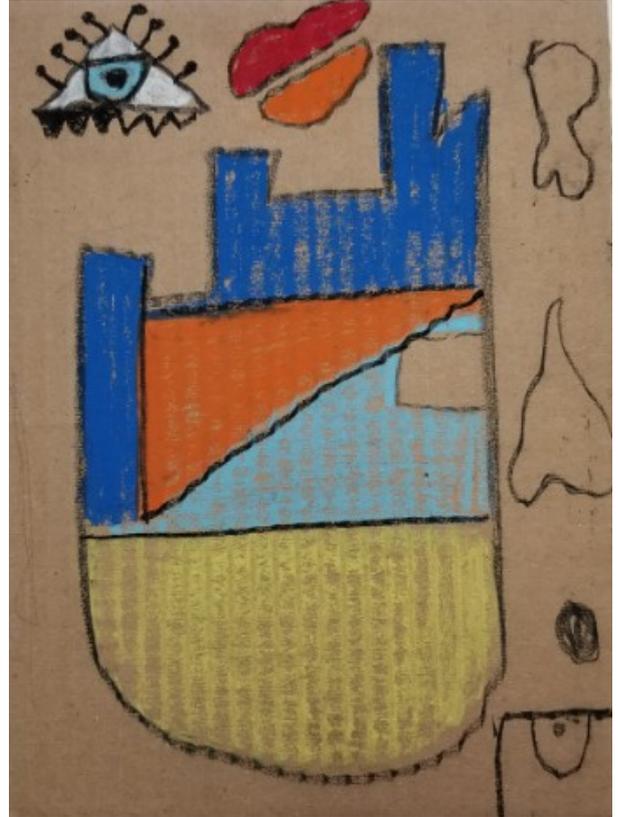




- Get your tools ready! Choose your colours and begin laying out the colour patterns, small details etc.
- Once the base of your mask is drawn out and coloured, your ready to cut it out.
- You can also create and colour your facial parts at this time. Once all the colouring and everything is ready to be assembled you can begin to cut it out!
- Use the knife or scissors to cut it out. If the cardboard is too thick for scissors using the knife is easier on the hands. Be sure to cut away from the body when removing cardboard with it.



Also, you can draw on some features and details that are too difficult or small to cut out of cardboard on to the mask. Following are some examples of different approaches to this.



Once you are satisfied with the placements of where you want your features you can begin gluing them on. The oil base and the crayon base will require a little more glue than a dab, however too much will squeeze and drip out.



Now that you have glued all your pieces on to the base you can add some more features on as you please. I suggest that you wait until the glue has dried somewhat on the surface before you add any details on to the 3 dimensional pieces. The following pages will show some more finished works from the classrooms this year!



We hope you have fun with this, the possibilities are endless! If you want to add other items onto your mask that are outside of the scope of this layout, please do!

It would be wonderful if you would share with us the finished picture so that Gallery in the Grove can share with our community!





