

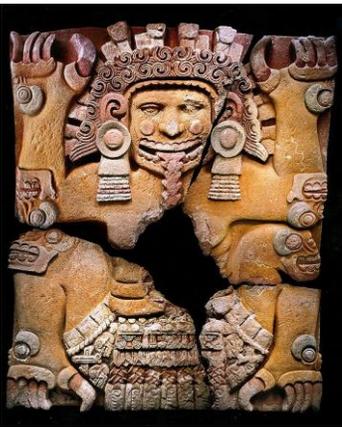
Art A Day

CHALLENGE: Surreal Texture The intangible becomes tangible

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!



Stone carving of Tlaltecuhlti, found in Tenochtitlan (ca. 1500).
[Public domain.](#)

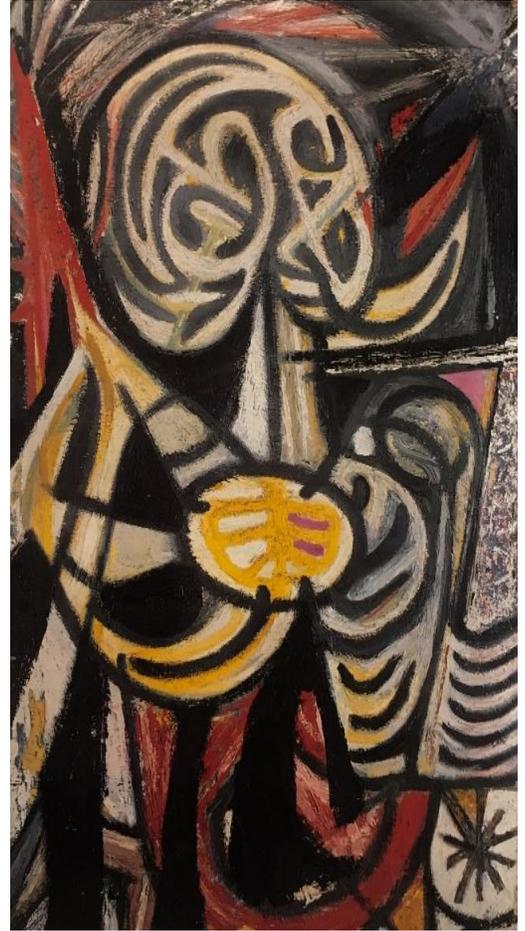
Words you need to know:

Texture is the way something feels or looks like it feels.

Automatic drawing is the process of drawing immediately, allowing the artist's hand to randomly make marks. The hope is that this drawing will reveal something deep within the mind or subconscious.

LOOK at this painting by Reuben Kadish. He was very influenced by Mesoamerican Art (or the art of Central America left by pre-Columbian civilizations). Look at the bold lines, intense color, and the resemblance of a figure. The dark gestural lines in the painting help to connect him to a group of Surrealist Artists.

These artists were concerned with exploring the impact of dreams, the mysteries of Earth, automatic drawing (or drawing the first thing that came to them), and symbols of prehistoric art. Kadish mixed sand into his paint giving his painting a rough **texture**.



Reuben Kadish
American, 1913-1992
Untitled, ca.1948

THINK about Kadish's influences. Look at the Stone Carving of Tlaltecuhlti. This is an example of Mesoamerican Art that may have inspired Kadish. Why do you think he added sand to the painting? How does sand connect Kadish to his influences (dreams, mysteries of Earth, automatic drawing, symbols of prehistoric art)? How does adding **texture** add interest to his art?

MAKE an **automatic drawing** with **texture**. Draw lines, shapes, colors, spaces, and forms that flow out of your mind, without fixing unintentional marks. If you have a hard time allowing yourself to freely draw in this way, try closing your eyes while you let your hand take over. Add **texture**. This **texture** can be applied directly onto your work by gluing objects with various **textured** surfaces to your art or mixing sand into your paint (Kadish's technique). You can also create the appearance of **texture** by placing your paper on top of a textured object and rubbing the side of a crayon over your paper. The texture of the object under your paper will appear. Experiment with layering **textures** and marks. All different kinds of objects can be glued down, painted and stamped, or rubbed. Here are a few textural object ideas that you may have in or around your home: bubble wrap, leaves, cotton balls, bricks (for rubbings), chalk on top of dried paint, sticks, bark, wheels from toy cars, Legos, etc...look around and surprise yourself with the textures you can find!

Writing Extension: When you look at the **automatic drawing** you completed, what comes to your mind? What does it remind you of or make you think about? How does the **texture** work with your drawing? Write about something your automatic drawing taught you about yourself and your own mind.

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