



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-original Art Activities: Surreal Art Inspired by Susan Plum



Susan Plum, *Luz y Solidaridad*, 2006, Vinyl fibers, wooden dowels, stone and cast glass, Collection of the artist

Susan Plum is a multidisciplinary artist currently living and working in Houston, TX – the city of her birth. Born in 1944, Plum was raised in Mexico City. She was heavily influenced by Magical Realism and Surrealism in Mexican Art.

Luz y Solidaridad is a sculptural installation that addresses the disappearance and murder of young women near the US border around Juarez – femicide that some estimate to be in the thousands since 1993.

With the metates, she also symbolically uses the object to illustrate both the erasure of the past with connectivity to the present. "These metates speak to the lineage of the Virgin of Guadalupe," she explains. "Because before Guadalupe, there was the Toltec, Tonāntzin; the Aztec, Coatlicue; and the Mayan, IxChel."

Create a surreal art piece inspired by Susan Plum.

Supplies

Object, Paper, Pencil, Color pencils

Instructions

Step 1: What object is most important to you? What makes it special? Does it **symbolize** something? Does it represent a memory or person?

Step 2: In her **installation**, *Luz y Solidaridad*, Plum exaggerated an everyday object, the broom while centering the metates, something that is special to her.

Step 3: Think about what part of your object is significant to you. Artists often exaggerate something to emphasize it. Think about how you will exaggerate or emphasize a part of your object in your drawing.

Step 4: Use a pencil to draw your object. What part of your object will you exaggerate?

Step 5: Use color pencils to color your drawing.

Step 6 (Optional): Is there more to your art piece? Draw and color in a background around your object to elaborate on the story you are telling.

Vocabulary

Installation art - genre of art that are site-specific and transform the chosen space

Surrealism – Surrealism is a modern movement in art and literature that tries to express the subconscious mind

Symbol – an object or concept that represents, stands for, or suggests another idea, visual image, belief, or action

SEE SUSAN PLUM'S *LUZ Y SOLIDARIDAD* IN *ENTWINED: RITUAL WRAPPING AND BINDING IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN ART* AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM. CHECK OUT [OGDEN MUSEUM ONLINE](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!

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