



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-original Art Activities: Drawing Inspired by Walter Wade Welch



Walter Wade Welch, *Grand Piano*, 1984, Colored lithograph on paper, Gift of the Roger H. Ogden Collection.

Walter Wade Welch was born on June 21, 1951 in Montgomery, Alabama. Welch moved to New Orleans in 1983 to manage the 927 Art Gallery located in the French Quarter. Welch produced highly detailed, whimsical ink pen drawings. His work was exhibited in Baton Rouge and New Orleans as well as published in magazines, newspapers and books. Welch passed away at the age of 58 but his legacy lives on through his art.

Draw your favorite instrument inspired by Walter Wade Welch's *Grand Piano*.

SEE WALTER WADE WELCH'S *GRAND PIANO* IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT OGDEN MUSEUM.

CHECK OUT [THE O BLOG](#) FOR MORE RESOURCES!

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL
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Supplies

Paper, Pencil, Markers, Ruler

Instructions

Step 1: Look at Walter Wade Welch's artwork, *Grand Piano*. What do you notice about his artwork? Welch uses flat planes of color and simplifies the piano into its basic components. The man is tiny in comparison to the large piano, which gives Welch's work a whimsical and playful feeling.

Step 2: Do you play a musical instrument? What is it? If you don't play an instrument, what is your favorite instrument? Use Google with a parent or guardian's permission, and search "Instruments" to find detailed images to use as a reference. If you can't use the Internet, look in books for examples or use your imagination!

Step 3: Use a pencil and ruler to draw a frame on your paper. Think about the **composition** of your drawing. Where will you position your instrument in relation to the frame? Will it be within the frame, overlapping the frame, like Welch has done or bursting out of the frame?

Step 4: Draw your favorite instrument! In Welch's *Grand Piano*, he simplifies the piano. Look at the basic components of your instrument and see if you can simplify it. Sketch the basic shapes of the instrument. Add details to your instrument. Does it have keys, strings or another method of playing it?

Step 5: You can add a little figure in your drawing and position them around the instrument! Will the figure be playing the instrument?

Step 6: Add color to your drawing! Welch uses flat planes of color to render the background of his work. Choose any color you want for the background! Next, color the instrument and the figure.

Step 7: Title, sign and date your drawing! Welch writes the title of his work in the middle of the bottom of his paper, but you can sign your artwork anywhere!

Vocabulary

Composition – the arrangement of elements within an artwork

