



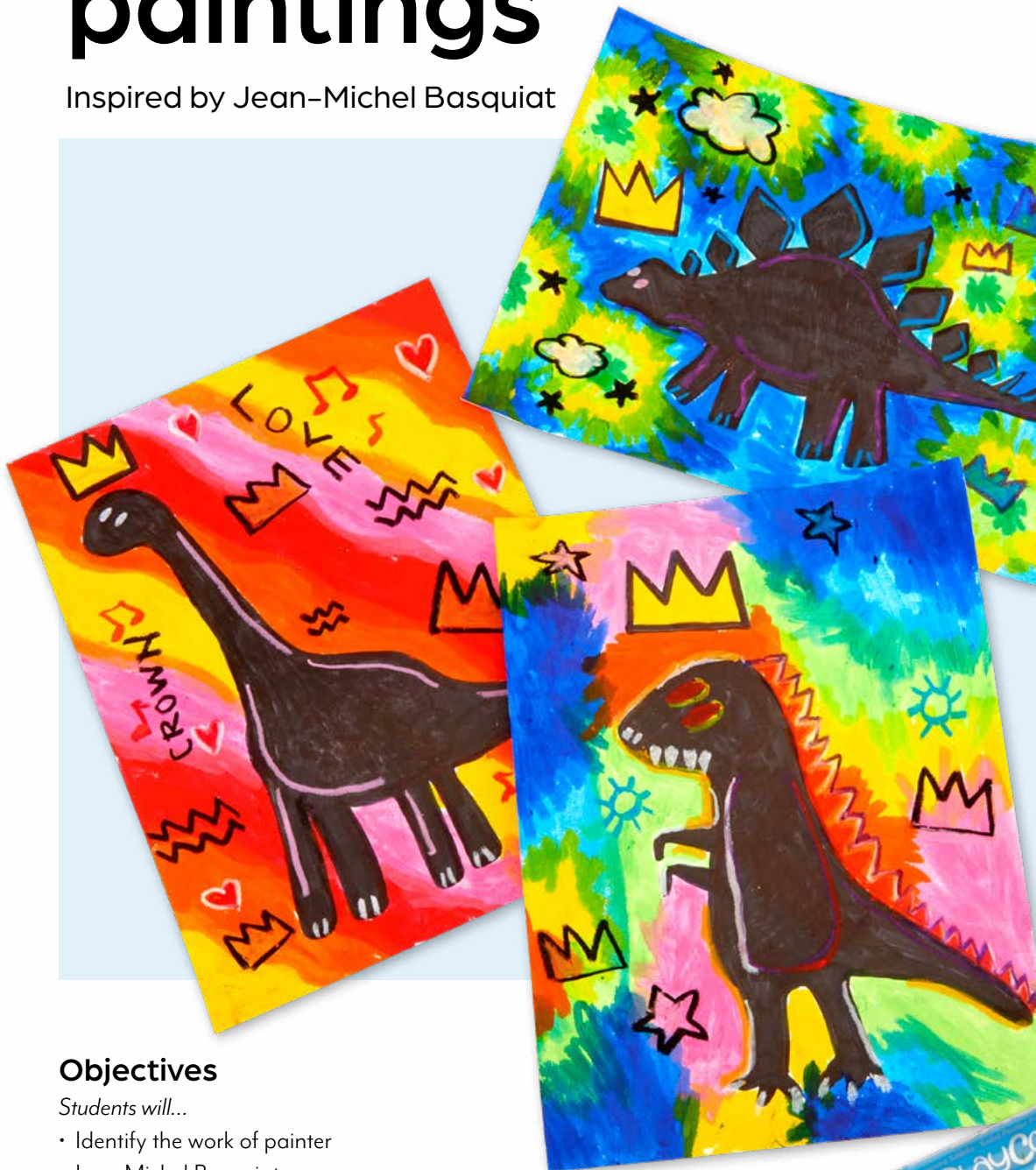
Developed with Sam Rausch, Art Educator and Customer Engagement Manager for Nasco Education

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Time: 3 days  
(45 min. sessions)

# Abstract dinosaur paintings

Inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat



## National Core Arts Anchor Standards

### Creating

VA:Cr3.1.3a

Elaborate visual information by adding details in an artwork to enhance emerging meaning.

VA:Cr2.2.3a

Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment for a variety of artistic processes.

### Responding

VA:Re.7.2.3a

Determine messages communicated by an image.

## Objectives

Students will...

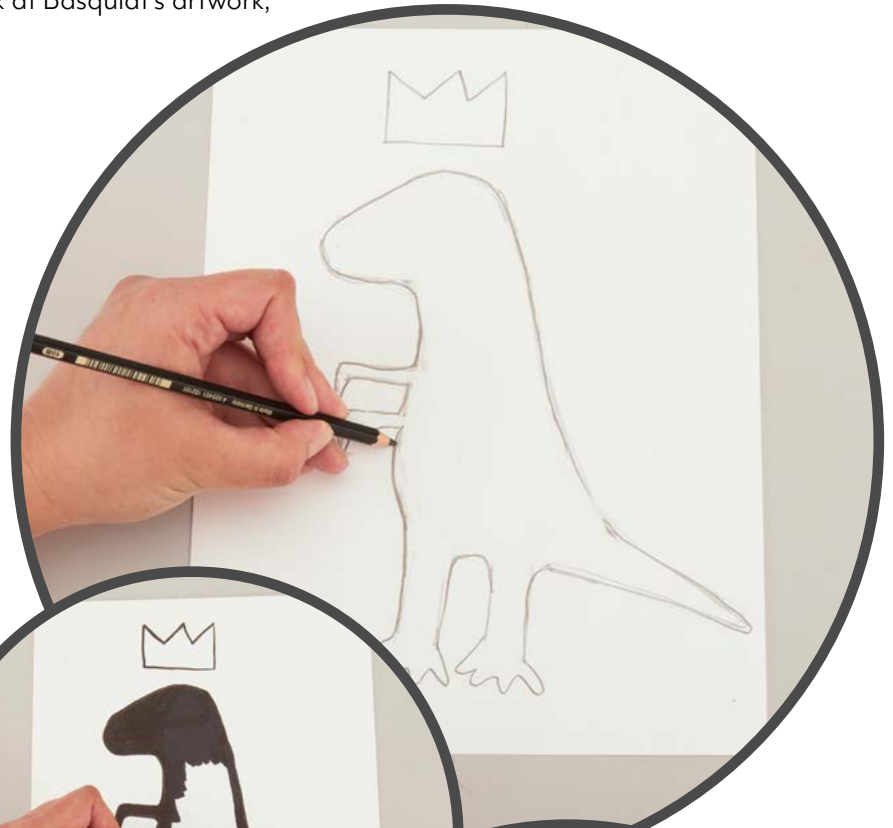
- Identify the work of painter Jean-Michel Basquiat
- Create symbols that have personal meanings
- Differentiate between representational and abstract artwork

# Instructions



## Day 1 (45 minutes)

1. Introduce painter Jean-Michel Basquiat with one or both of these children's books:
  - *Little People, BIG DREAMS: Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
  - *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe
2. Present and discuss some of Basquiat's paintings, particularly *Pez Dispenser* (1984), which shows a Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur in profile with a crown hovering over its head. Talk to students about the differences between representational and abstract artwork. As you look at Basquiat's artwork, ask students to identify any symbols they see.
3. Give every student a piece of 9" x 12" white mixed-media paper. Provide examples or tutorials for drawing different types of dinosaurs (see Resources on p. 4 for free reproducibles online) or lead students in a directed drawing of a T-rex similar to Basquiat's *Pez Dispenser*.
4. Have students draw their preferred dinosaur and don't forget to add crowns! Students can complete their drawings on Day 2 if they do not complete them on this day.



## Day 2 (45 minutes)

1. If students need to finish their drawings, have them complete them before moving on to the next steps.
2. Have students outline their drawings with black marker and then fill in the dinosaur with solid color. Let them know they will be adding details on Day 3.
3. Have students "paint" the background with tempera sticks using loose, gestural lines. Have them apply splotches of color across the background one at a time before moving to the next color.
4. Let dry.





## Day 3 (45 minutes)

1. Start the session with a discussion about symbols.
  - What is a symbol? (An object or sign that stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract)
  - How are symbols used in everyday life?
  - What symbols did we see in Basquiat's artwork in the last class period?
  - What does the crown symbolize in Basquiat's artwork?
2. Have students brainstorm and draw some of their own personal symbols on scrap paper.
3. Provide oil pastels for them to add personal symbols and/or words around their dinosaur.
4. Next, have students add eyes, teeth, spikes, claws, scales, and any other details they want with oil pastels or tempera sticks.





## Materials list

- Tempera sticks (9732137)
- Black permanent markers [9717997(A)]
- Oil pastels (NE20074)
- 9" x 12" white mixed-media drawing paper (9728257)

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## Resources

- *Little People, Big Dreams: Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
- *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe
- “**Draw Me Dinosaurs**” (6 free reproducible dino drawing tutorials) from Petit-Fernand

