

PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

Found Object Sculpture



Betty Parsons, American (1900-1982), Pulling That Way, 1982, Acrylic on wood
26 x 19 x 3 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, 2012.33.4

Betty Parsons was an artist and gallerist whose contributions to the New York art scene were instrumental to the development of American art. She was hailed as the “den mother of the abstract expressionists” since she was a proponent of their work and featured them prominently in her midtown gallery.

In 1959, she began spending summers in Southold out on the North Fork of Long Island and soon after she turned to sculpture. She began collecting wood debris on the beaches to assemble and paint. Most of her artworks are based in spontaneity and desire to convey sheer energy. Hilton Kramer, the art critic, said of Mrs. Parsons: "She was genuinely crazy about art. It was her whole life...[she was] One of the Shining Lights."

Learn More About Betty Parson's Life Here:

<http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/artists/8684281>

Explore more of Betty Parsons's Artwork Here:

<http://parrishart.org/artist-stories/#/collection/?select-artist=true&artist=Parsons,%20Betty>

MATERIALS

Found Objects (such as twigs, pieces of wood, or rocks)

Paint (Tempera or acrylic)

Glue (Elmers glue works well with wood)



DAY 1

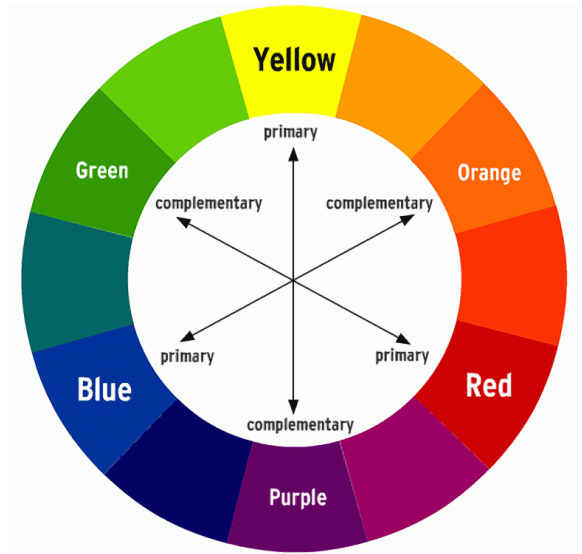
Betty Parsons found the materials for her sculptures while taking walks along the beach. Take a walk around your backyard or neighborhood. Look around for natural materials to gather, such as sticks, pinecones, or rocks! Start to think about how you will assemble these objects together.

Before you glue your things together, make sure your objects are clean. Once the glue is dried, it's time to paint! Parson's sculptures featured painted lines of color with the natural wood exposed. Will you do the same?

DAY 2

In her work, Parsons often put complementary colors next to each other. Complementary colors are colors opposite one another on the color wheel. The pairs are red and green, blue and orange, purple and yellow. Create a painting using complementary colors.

See some of Parson's work Below for inspiration!



Left : BETTY PARSONS, (American, 1900-1982), Nova Scotia, 1967, Gouache on paper, 16 3/4 x 14 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York, Gift of the Estate of Holland R. Melson, Jr. in honor of Alicia Longwell, and in memory of Hugh Smith Thompson, 2015.14 Right: BETTY PARSONS,(American, 1900-1982), Kachina, 1981, Acrylic on wood, 35 1/2 x 15 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, 2012.33.3

TAKE IT FURTHER:

Learn more about The Betty Parsons Gallery:

<https://www.theartstory.org/gallery-betty-parsons.htm>