

Creating Tribute: The Judy Chicago Project Overview

Leah Krueger, Jessica Provow, Anne Baker (Art Teachers)

Contact: Leah.Krueger@VBSchools.com

Inspired by Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party," 8th grade students were presented with the challenge of identifying people that have "changed the world for the better." In looking at student generated lists, discussions were held in regards to the representation of men, women and minorities. Questions were asked to prompt students to reflect on why more general knowledge is known of male icons than female. Who are powerful people (emphasis on diversity) that have made the world a better place? Providing context is vital to understanding and appreciating the achievements of women. Using the big idea of tribute, students explored what it means to honor someone and why it is an important part of our human tradition. Students chose a person to create a place setting as tribute to. Students saw the qualities deemed admirable mirrored in their chosen person.

Equality is an important issue in our modern world and creating a table that represents the accomplishments of truly innovative men, women and minorities as equals was the ultimate goal of this project. Modern feminism is more about raising women to be able to stand equal to others than to stand alone and separate. That is why this dinner party includes men, women and minorities. To keep the integrity of Judy Chicago's work; the beginning to the project was an in-depth look at and analysis of the dinner party. Her vision was explained and given context to the feminist movement during the time in which her art was produced. Students looked at her place settings and created an aesthetic analysis during a class discussion. However; the context of the world has changed since the dinner party was created in 1979. Even though the purpose of her art has not changed, students have different visual context and their personal connections are varied. It is important to honor an artist's message, but in teaching students to find their own voice, the art must be open for interpretation.

Students took their understanding of the work of Judy Chicago and then applied it to this project; interpreted through their own artistic vision. The resulting works of art are a culmination of nine weeks of research, investigation, reflection and production. Hearing students speak about their person and the passion they exhibit was incredibly powerful. Students were able to make a connection and teach others about a person that has changed the world. They were able to create art with the purpose of creating a tribute and reflect on the importance of art to honor humanity and memorialize the people whose efforts, inventions, writings and movements have made the world a better place. Student work is currently on display in the main hallway and select works will be displayed at our local Museum of Contemporary Art for Youth Art Month.

Amelia Earhart
by Ameila Fullwood

"Everyone has oceans to fly, if they have the heart to do it. Is it reckless, maybe? But what do dreams know of boundaries?" —Amelia Earhart. The person I decided to create tribute to in my art work is Amelia Earhart. A tribute is an act, statement, or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect, or admiration. I choose Amelia Earhart, since I feel she is an inspiration to us all. Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and author. Amelia was the first female aviator to fly solo over the ocean. Amelia Earhart started to fly in a time were women were fighting for equal rights. When I was researching her, I learned that she was a member in the National Women's Party and she was an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. Learning that, I had more respect for her because she did something that was unheard of at that time. Being a female pilot while riding solo over the ocean, she also helped women in the equal right campaign. Amelia Earhart changed the world in a positive way; she showed people that even if you're a women you can do the same things men can do. She also helped support the equal right campaign. She impacted the world in such a positive way.

In my protect I made my cup, plate, place mate, fork, spoon, and fork to symbolize Amelia Earhart. My cup looks like a mug; it has a handle and is really round. On my cup there is a plane flying through the sky, with a bunch of clouds by it. My cup symbolizes how Amelia Earhart was a pilot, and I only put one plane in the sky to symbolize how she was a solo pilot. My plate looks like the front of a plane. It has a red rim to symbolize Amelia Earhart's red plane. My spoon looks like a regular spoon but it has ERA in graved in it. ERA means Equal Rights Amendment. Amelia Earhart was an active supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. My fork is two 9's put together to make a 99. That symbols the Ninety Nines which was an organization for female pilots. Amelia Earhart was a member of that organization. My fork is a plane since she was a pilot. My place mat is a huge map of the world. Within that map there are lines and an X which symbols Amelia's last flight before she died. I also included a quote from Amelia which said "Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others."

I learned a lot about the media of clay. I learned how to flatten out a piece of clay to create a slab. I learned that it is better to have water by you when you paint. This project has helped me in so many ways, I learned so many new things. I realized that basing art off of a story, gives it more meaning and makes you work harder to finish it. I hope the viewer will take away two things from my art work. The first thing I hope they take away is what an inspiration Amelia really is and all that she has done. The second thing I hope they take away is to have courage in yourself like Amelia Earhart had because you never know what you're capable of unless you try. Amelia Earhart once said these simple words "[Women] do get more glory than men for comparable feats. But, also, women get more notoriety when they crash." I find that really weird because no one looks down on her since she crashed but instead we look up to her for doing something that was not thought of. She changed the world in such a positive way and she is truly and inspiration.



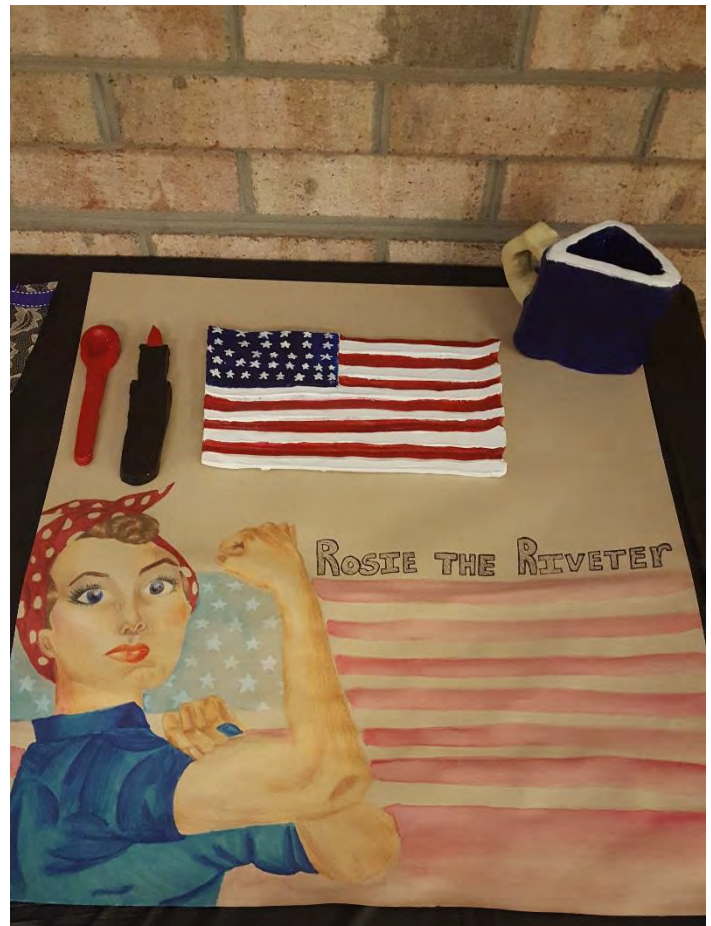
Rosie the Riveter

by Darby Hunt

To begin, when I was first introduced to the Judy Chicago inspired "Tribute "Place Setting Project, I was unaware of what person I would symbolize throughout the place setting. My goal was to create the project off of someone who I was passionate about, and who I could replicate just as Judy Chicago did. Eventually, I decided that Rosie the Riveter would be the best person to create a tribute, or act of admiration for. Rosie the Riveter was a perfect candidate to do this project for because she symbolized all the women who started in the workforce during World War II because many of the men were away at war. She was more than just a picture that enticed women to work, but she proved the true strength and power that women could bring to society. As I was researching her, I learned that Rosie the Riveter was actually a campaign ad put out by the government, which at the time, was mostly composed of men, ironically enough. After many men returned home, it was clear that women were crucial to the success of the war, and though some women returned to their previous home jobs, many stayed and fought for higher wages. Rosie the Riveter has truly had a positive, everlasting impact on the world.

Throughout my place setting, I took some of Rosie's most iconic symbols as well as interpreted her as a person to show her personality in the sculptures. The cup I created was a triangle shaped cup that has a strong arm as its handle. The triangle shape represents equality among everyone, which is the same shape of the table that Judy Chicago created. The strong arm is quite literally a representation of the strength women have. My plate is an American flag because Rosie the Riveter is very patriotic, and in a way she is the human version of the flag. In my piece, I decided to sculpt two utensils because I felt that one was not enough to represent Rosie. My first utensil was a knife- inspired utensil, but instead I made it to look like lipstick with its cap off so the lip stick color was showing. The lipstick is an iconic symbol of her which proved that women can look more feminine and still be in the workforce! My second utensil is a normal spoon that has a red bandana tied around in. This element was very crucial to my piece because a bandana is what most women used on their heads when they started to work in the factories. Lastly, my placemat is a drawing of Rosie the Riveter in all her glory with a subtle American flag, flying in the background. I wanted Rosie the Riveter to be the lasting image in the viewer's mind because her look is a very powerful image!

While working on this project on Rosie, I learned many new things about sculpting with clay which I know will be very useful in the future. One technique I learned from creating my American flag plate was the relief technique. I used a half circle clay tool to carve into my clay, making the stripes. This way the stripes had depth that created more visual interest than just paint. This project has expanded my knowledge base about art making because I now have a better understanding of how to take a person or thing's characteristics and turn them into symbols as I did in this artwork. I hope the viewer takes away the lasting, powerful image that Rosie the Riveter brought during that era of time, which truly encouraged the women of the United states that they were capable of more. With all that being said, I hope that I and many others, have felt impacted by the perpetual spirit that Rosie will always carry within her and the millions of women who were changed forever.



Lupita Nyong'o
by Fawziya Gyamfi

Tribute: an act, statement, or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect, or admiration. For my Judy Chicago I made a tribute to Lupita Nyong'o. I have much respect for her positive attitude. While researching I learned a lot about her. At the age of 16 she moved from Kenya to Mexico all on her own. She has also had a lot of awards like "Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Female" for the 2014, *12 years a slave*. A positive impact she has on the world is showing that no matter what gender or race you are, you can reach even the highest of stars.

For my dinner setting tribute it was all hand built with mixed media for detail and decoration. The setting includes a cup, bowl, place mat, a fork, and spoon. The cup is a round, small, mug. It has a white base and yellow triangles to represent the Oscars she has one with teal dots to add color and to represent her love for pineapple soda and black handle for elegance to symbolize her elegance. My bowl is a large round bowl with a white base, it also has a black flower like shape in the center of the inside of the bowl, and it is an African symbol that stands for love. On the outer side of the bowl has a yellow design I chose yellow because it is a bright and happy color which I think represents her very well. For added color and detail I added blue glass marbles to the outside as well as one clear onto the inside. The utensils I made a long and slim with a blue and yellow bottom as well as top. On the utensils I added clear glass marbles to represent peals which is something she likes, and would prefer over diamond.

I practiced patience during this project. Sometimes things might not end up how you want it, but you have to keep going. This has expanded my knowledge on art making by showing me new ways to be innovative. I hope the viewer understands from this is to appreciate the people around you and who you admire.



Misty May Treanor
by Brady Callahan

For my Judy Chicago project I chose a person that all of my life I have looked up to. Her name is Misty May Treanor and she is an amazing Olympic beach volleyball player. I learned when researching her that all of the players that she has played with love her and think she is a very hard worker. She also believes in helping others. I learned when researching her that all of her volleyball teammates enjoy playing with her, and say that she is an easy person to get along with. Also, in 2002 Misty May's mom died from cancer. I respect her deeply because in her mom's terrible death she overcame the sadness and kept on going with her life. She went on to win Olympic gold medals.

I worked very hard to make each of my clay items have symbolism. My cup is more of a goblet. It has a wave at the top. It has a flower on the bottom. It is painted blue and white. It has a wave to represent her love for the beach and how she plays beach volleyball. The flower represents the girly girl in her. It is blue and white to represent the color of the ocean. My plates are 5 mini plates. They each represent one of the Olympic rings with volleyballs in them. This is because she was in the Olympics for volleyball multiple times. My utensils are a fork with a turtle, a knife with a volleyball, and a gold medal as a spoon. The turtle represents her nickname. The volleyball represents her playing volleyball. The gold medal represents how she consistently got gold medals. My placemat is an American flag. This represents her pride for America and how she loves to compete against other countries to bring back gold for the USA.

During this project I truly learned more about techniques that will help me with my future art making. I learned more about the importance of having a structurally sound piece of clay. I also learned more about painting in a fashion that will make the piece look more professional. I also have learned more about being careful about symbolism and the way I make a piece so it will look just like I like it after being fired. I hope the viewer is able to tell that the piece is about an Olympic beach volleyball player and that they can tell that she is very proud of her country. This project has taught me about the importance of learning from others and accepting that we all have our talents and it is good to be different.



Kate Rubins
by Alaura Knoop

I chose Kate Rubins because she has made many contributions to NASA's work in exploring and understanding space. In the summer of 2016, Rubins was launched to the International Space Station (ISS). There, she completed many science experiments and became the first person to sequence DNA in space. Kate Rubins attended Stanford University, received a Bachelors of Science degree in Molecular Biology and she worked very hard to become an astronaut for NASA. She helped provide evidence that it is possible to sequence DNA in space that could possibly help detect DNA-based life somewhere else in the universe. The data she collected could also aid in monitoring effects on humans in space flight. Kate Rubins has had a very positive impact on the world because of her hard work and dedication to her love for science.

Kate Rubins is the person I based my place setting on. The cup I created is in the shape of a DNA molecule to symbolize Rubin's research about biology and DNA in space. I chose the plate to feature the NASA symbol because Kate Rubins works for NASA as an astronaut. The first utensil is a rocket, the Soyuz MS-01, which was the rocket Kate Rubins was in when she went to the ISS. The second utensil has all different types of planets to represent space exploration. I painted the placemat to show a view of Earth from space with the sun setting. This symbolizes a view Kate Rubins might have seen aboard the International Space Station.

Throughout creating this artwork, I learned to work better with 3-D art materials. Creating this artwork has expanded my knowledge of art making by helping me use symbolism in my art. I hope the viewer takes away an understanding of the importance of art and learns more about an amazing person. Kate Rubins is an extraordinary individual and I used my art to express the positive impact she has had on the world.

