

*Revised Sept. 2011*

**FAMOUS ARTIST SERIES: KEITH HARING (1958-1990)**

“Dog” framed poster

**Supplies Needed:**

- \*Laminated pictures of Haring and work from supply box (3 total)
- \* Black construction paper from teacher’s workroom
- \* White crayons from supply box for drawing on black paper  
**(PLEASE make an effort to collect crayons and put them back in the supply box after the project)**
- \* 6-8 feet of paper (white or black) from rolls in teacher’s work room
- \* Copy of laminated drawings of alien ship, heart and baby from supply box
- \*Colored construction paper for matting from teacher’s work room  
Keith Haring I Wish I Didn’t Have to Sleep, Preston  
Keith Haring Counting Book
- \* Dr. Seuss book from library or classroom – any example is fine

***AHEAD OF TIME NOTE: Please be sure to make copies of the master “Famous Artist Series” note home to parents and give to teacher to hand out later to students.***

***Show Haring dog poster. Ask the students if they have ever seen this artwork or one like it. What does it look like? Do they think they can draw like this?***

Many of you already have drawn in this style, just like artist Keith Haring did when he made the dog picture on this poster. Keith Haring hoped his art would touch everyone. He especially loved young people, and tried to let them help him draw whenever possible.

***Show laminate #1, picture of Haring with kids in front of one of his murals.***

Haring started drawing before he was even a year old. His dad was good at drawing cartoons, and Keith liked to sit on his lap and draw. Throughout his whole life, he loved to draw. Most of the time he liked to draw using outline shapes over and over again. Haring really liked artwork by Dr. Seuss, ***show book example***, Walt Disney—***who has seen pictures of Mickey Mouse?!***—and Charles Schultz, the cartoonist who drew Snoopy and Charlie Brown.

**Show the picture of Snoopy (flipside of laminate #1). How does Snoopy and Haring's dog look the same? How are they different? The outlines are the same, but Snoopy has a face. Haring rarely draws a face.**

Keith Haring's drawing style is called "abstract". That means his picture doesn't look like what a true dog might look like, like a photograph of a dog. Even Snoopy looks more like a real dog than the dog by Keith Haring. But still, you know it's a dog when you look at it.

Haring's parents encouraged him to attend a commercial art school - a school where students learn to draw the pictures you see on packages, on billboards and company symbols. He went on to study at another college of art, where he had his first art exhibit at age 19. Then he went to New York City. During his spare time, he drew a lot, up to 40 pictures each day. He loved looking at the graffiti in the subway station — "graffiti" is art and words illegally drawn on public buildings, buses, subway cars, etc. Haring used "graffiti" style in his artwork and liked the way his works looked when he used white chalk on black billboard paper.

Haring's work focused on symbols that anyone can understand, such as a baby, an alien ship, an animal that looks like a dog, all drawn with a heavy outline. **Show laminate #2, pictures of his drawings.**

He combined these drawings and added new elements—hearts, lines, all in a very appealing style. He was already selling his work out of his studio and finally had his first New York art gallery showing. Haring really believed that art should be for everyone, everywhere. He said, "The public has a right to art. I'm interested in making art to be experienced and explored by as many individuals as possible with as many individual ideas..." He loved to interact with children and even painted a 10-story mural with 1,000 kids from New York that was hung on the Statue of Liberty.

Quickly, Haring's work became popular all over the world. He continued to be inspired by people he met and things he saw. He realized his designs could be used on almost anything — a refrigerator door, a fireplace mantle, vases, as sculptures, wood carvings, billboards, a banner for a blimp and murals like the one we made. **(Show laminate #3 - sculpture).** Haring also opened up his own store, called the Pop Shop, in New York and Tokyo.

Haring thought that art was an important way to tell people things. He wanted people to think about the role computers play in our lives. He

wanted people to stop using nuclear weapons. He made pictures and posters using these themes. He used his art to tell the world to support AIDS research.

## **PROJECT:**

### ***Individual Project***

***Now we will have chance to make pictures the way Keith Haring did. Pass out the black construction paper and the white crayons. Instruct the students to try to draw a picture using heavy outlines on the black paper. You might want to try copying Haring's baby, or alien ship, dog or heart designs. (Show laminated cards with these designs.) Matte pictures on colored paper when students are finished.***

### ***Group Project***

***Since many students will finish this project rather quickly, suggest they move to floor and help create a mural in the Keith Haring style. Place copies of the heart, dog and spaceship designs on paper for reference. Students can lay on floor around paper. You can use black paper with white crayons or white paper with black markers. Remind students to draw large images with simple details.***

**PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST 5 MINUTES OF TIME AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION FOR THE STUDENTS TO PRESENT THEIR WORK TO THE CLASS.**

## FAMOUS ARTISTS SERIES

### Haring

Today in class a volunteer parent presented the works of contemporary artist Keith Haring. The students made a classroom mural as well as a take-home art project.

Marquette University's Haggerty Museum has an installation of painted construction fence that Haring created. Call 414-288-1669 for more information, or look them up on the web at <http://www.mu.edu/haggerty>.

In addition, there is a children's' story entitled I Wish I Didn't Have to Sleep by Prestel which talks about Haring's work.

Sincerely yours,

Art Volunteer