

BLOSSOM & ROOT

PROFILES AND EXPLORATIONS IN ART

Nine Profiles in Art

VOLUME 1



DESIGNED FOR
BLOSSOM AND ROOT LEVEL 4

Exploring the Lives, Work, and Times of Nine Different Artists | Weekly Art Prompts



www.blossomandroot.com

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Profiles and Explorations in Art
Vol. 1

Nine Profiles in Art

A Complete Art Curriculum

Designed for Blossom and Root Level 4

**Blossom & Root Profiles and Explorations in Art
Level 4: Nine Profiles in Art, Vol. 1**

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Find Us on the Web at <https://www.blossomandroot.com>

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Make It Yours

How to Teach This Curriculum

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

- Thomas Merton

Step One: Picture Study

Each week, you will conduct a simple picture study using one or multiple works of art. There are instructions for conducting picture study each week in this parent guide. This should only take about five to ten minutes per session.

Step Two: Exploring the Artist

There is a short, scripted prompt for exploring the featured artist each week. You may either read this to your child as written, or use it as a jumping-off point for deeper discussion.

Step Three: Exploring with Art

Every week, there is a featured art project that will allow your child to explore the artwork on a deeper level. These are process-based projects. The emphasis should be on delight, exploration, and wonder, not the end result.

Permission to Go Off-Grid

If your child becomes especially fascinated by any of the artists, techniques, etc. in the curriculum, feel free to pause and dive deeper for awhile. We promise that our curriculum will be here waiting for you when you come back! Remember, our curriculum is here to support and inspire you and your child during your journey this year. It is not here to make you feel pressured or rigidly confined to a precise schedule. What matters most is that you are instilling a sense of love for art in your child.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What about music? You may wish to add a casual composer study, or simply listen to a variety of musical genres and styles while you explore the art projects. For a more structured music curriculum, we highly recommend SQUILT. For a more Waldorf-inspired approach to music, we highly recommend Legends of the Staff of Musique.

How do I schedule this program into our week?

If you do art once a week, you will complete one week's picture study, artist prompt, and art project in a single session, every week. However, we recommend that you allow for rabbit-trails and deep-dives when your child is inspired. There is no reason to feel pressured to complete the full curriculum in 36 weeks, or at all.

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Week One: Louise Bourgeois

This Week's Featured Work of Art:

Louise Bourgeois

Spirals

2005

Please be aware that some of the text below the artwork at this link may not be appropriate for children:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/bourgeois-spirals-al00346>

Note: Clickable links for all artworks, websites, and videos can be found at the back of this guide.

Part One: Picture Study

Show your child the piece titled *Spirals* by Louise Bourgeois (clickable link in back of guide.)

Let your child gaze upon it for a few minutes. Then, hide the work from view and ask them to recall as many details about it as possible. (Colors, shapes, figures, features, feelings, etc.)

Once your child is finished, tell them the title of the piece and the name of the artist.

For older children, picture study can be a world of extremes. They may want to look at the artwork for several minutes, or they may find it unpleasant or uncomfortable and only look for a moment. They may want to talk about it with you in great detail, or they may give short and stilted responses. All of these are appropriate, and we encourage you to let the child own their individual experience of the art, whatever that may look like. The main objective is to introduce the child to a body of work from each of the featured artists. There are no right or wrong answers.

Tip: Please be aware that some text below the artwork on the linked website may not be appropriate for children. We suggest using the "full screen" button to focus on the artwork itself.

Part Two: Exploring the Life of the Artist

Read to your child: *Louise Joséphine Bourgeois was a French-American artist known for her large-scale sculptures, paintings, prints, and installation art. She was born in Paris, France in 1911 and immigrated to the United States in 1938. Her art career spanned over seventy years before she passed away in 2010 in New York City.*

Bourgeois was known for being open to experimenting with lots of different art materials. She worked with many materials, including bronze, marble, latex, fabric, paint, ink, and discarded wood she found on the roof of her building in the city. She often said that much of her artwork was inspired by childhood memories.

Week One: Louise Bourgeois

Part Two: Exploring the Life of the Artist, cont.

Quote from the Artist:

"Memory itself is a form of architecture." - Louise Bourgeois

(Source: Louise Bourgeois: Memoria y Arquitectura: Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, 16 de Noviembre de 1999-14 de Febrero del 2000)

Additional (Optional) Resources to Consider:

Suggested book: pages 76 - 77 in *Women in Art: 50 Fearless Creatives Who Inspired the World* by Rachel Ignotofsky

Suggested book: *Cloth Lullaby: The Woven Life of Louise Bourgeois* by Amy Novesky

Video of the book being read: From Sarah Hill on YouTube, "Cloth Lullaby": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvZA2JvHlnY>

Part Three: Exploring with Art

Supplies You Will Need:

- cold pressed 140 lb. watercolor paper
- masking tape
- white crayon, plus dark-colored crayons or oil pastels
- pencil and ruler (optional)

Spiral Grid

Read to your child: *For this exploration, you will make a grid of twelve different spirals, similar to the featured artwork for the week. Begin by dividing a large sheet of cold-pressed, 140 lb. watercolor paper into twelve boxes. You can freehand this, use a ruler and precisely divide the paper using light pencil lines, or simply fold and unfold the paper--there is no right or wrong way.*

Next, use masking tape to make a grid around each box. Press down lightly to seal the tape onto the paper. (If you're using something besides cold-pressed, 140 lb. watercolor paper, skip this step.) Use a white wax crayon to make spirals in some (but not all) of the squares. You'll need to press down hard!

Paint all of the squares, using watercolor paint in a variety of colors. You can choose just a few colors to use, or you can use different colors for each square--it's up to you! As you paint, the spirals you made in white crayon will be revealed. When the paint is dry, you can make more spirals using dark-colored crayons or oil pastels in the boxes that you didn't make a spiral in already. Allow your work to dry completely, then carefully peel the tape off, being mindful not to tear your paper. (If you skipped the tape, disregard this step.) Sign the front or the back of your work, and give it a title if you want.