

MEXICAN BAROQUE: EL HOROR VACUI COLLAGE

In *Of Natural Causes*, we learned about the Mexican Baroque style of architecture and design. The De la Torre brothers borrow from this style in their sculptures, referencing religious and architectural ideas. In this lesson, you will learn about Mexican Baroque and the concept of El Horor Vacui (the fear of empty space), and design your own Mexican Baroque building using the art of collage.

LEARNING STANDARDS:

VISUAL ARTS 11: relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

VISUAL ARTS CN 11.1.8: distinguish different ways art is used to represent, establish, reinforce, and reflect group identity

MATERIALS:

Magazines
Scissors
Glue sticks
Construction paper
Internet access

VOCABULARY:

MEXICAN BAROQUE: a style of architecture based on the style of the Baroque period in Italy that also includes elements of Aztec culture and imagery.

EL HOROR VACUI: Latin for the horror, or fear, of empty space. This was one of the main tenets of the Mexican Baroque style.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Research Mexican Baroque architecture online to learn about the style. Write down what visual concepts you like about the style and start a list of what you want to include in your collaged building.
2. Gather a selection of magazines that include a variety of images of buildings, houses, and structures – these can be of interior and exterior structures.
3. Cut out several different architectural shapes such as columns, arches, ceilings, moldings, etc.
4. Start designing your building by organizing your architectural cut-outs, simulating the Mexican Baroque/El Horor Vacui style.
5. Once you are happy with your design layout, start to glue the pieces onto the construction paper. Remember, you can glue cut-outs and elements on top of other architectural structures to further your El Horor Vacui theme. El Horor Vacui is the horror of empty space, so fill up your collage with as many design elements as you can find.
6. Share your design with your class, family and/or friends. Remember you are trying to sell your class on why your Mexican Baroque building is the best. Describe all of the features it has, what is in each room, and why you came up with this specific design.