

SENSORIAL MASKS: WHEN YOU CAN TOUCH, SMELL, AND PLAY WITH ART

Masks have been used since antiquity in many different cultures around the world for ritual, practical, and entertainment purposes.

What are some kinds of masks you can think about?

There are...

FUNCTIONAL MASKS



MASKS TO PROTECT AND DISGUISE



AND RITUAL MASKS



When a person wears a mask, people can get strong impressions by looking at her.

Nevertheless, a mask affects also the person **wearing** it.

In the 1960s, Brazilian artists **Lygia Clark** (1920-1988) designed *Sensorial Masks*: colorful hoods meant to give emphasis to other senses besides sight: smell, touch, and hearing. They are made of fabric and have internal pockets where the artist placed some scents to stimulate smell, and some materials such as little shells, stones, or bells to create sound. Lygia Clark believed that art can be born out of very simple, inexpensive materials, and that art is more than things to be gazed at. It can be worn, touched, and smelled, too!



Two people wearing *Sensorial Masks*

EXERCISE: BUILD YOUR OWN SENSORIAL MASK!

1. Collect recyclable materials that you can find at home: newspapers, magazines, paper bags, old fabrics, tree leaves...
2. Build your own *Sensorial Mask*!

You can personalize it with texts, drawings and poems.

You can also decorate it with cutouts, stickers and beads.

3. And now add some scents to it by using scented color markers!



Now that you have built the mask, you can experience it! You can touch it, you can smell it, you can listen to it!

How do you feel when you wear it? Which of your senses are activated?



Finally, exchange your mask with that of your classmate. What do you notice? Does it make any sound? Does it have any scent? How does it make you feel?