

Duvian Montoya

What can we learn about art from Montoya's work?

Duration: 45 minutes

Grade Level: Grades 2 – 8

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about Duvian Montoya
- Study what art movements influenced his art
- Learn how to analyze artworks

Outcomes:

- Students will learn how family and culture can influence an artist
- Students will study different art movements and how they can affect an artist's artwork
- Students will engage in critical thinking and visual skills by analyzing artwork

Associated Activities:

- Create a Bird's Nest, 30 minutes
- Nature Bingo, 45 minutes

Who is Duvian Montoya?

Duvian Montoya was born in Connecticut to Colombian immigrants. His parents supported his desire to become an artist and exposed him to Latin American culture. He began his journey at Manhattan's School of Visual Arts where he focused on painting and jewelry design. After school, he became a restorer of lithographs for institutions around the world. He then went on to study the old masters in Europe. This trip, along with his cultural background, influenced his art.



Duvian Montoya, *Our Landscapers 4*, 2014, oil on canvas

How did other artists influence Montoya?

When studying in Europe, Montoya transitioned from photorealist art to intensely stylized art. His main influence was Vincent van Gogh, who was known for his bold colors and noticable brushstrokes.

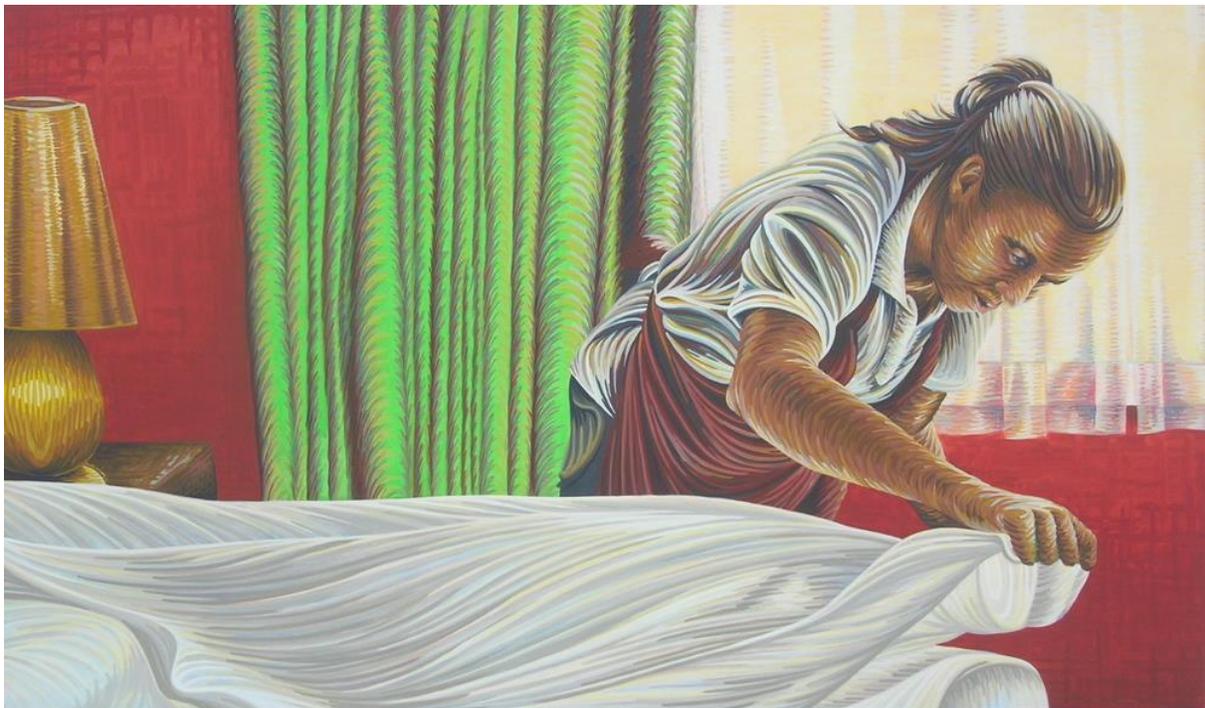
Think: Compare Vincent van Gogh's image below with Duvian Montoya's artworks that are in this lesson plan.



Vincent Van Gogh, *Starry Night*, 1889, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art

How did his upbringing influence Montoya's art?

Another aspect of Montoya's life that influenced his art was his ethnic background. His Colombian parents shared their culture with him, and this would influence a series of artworks focused on Latin American immigrants. His 'Worker Series' concentrates on those who have come to America for a better life but are left hidden in plain sight at the edge of society. The subjects of this series range from housekeepers to landscapers to cooks. All provide service to the community but are not normally accepted as members.



Duvian Montoya, *Our Housekeepers*, 2008, oil on canvas

Imagine: Think of a time where you may not have been included in an activity. How did that make you feel?

Has Montoya's work changed over time?

Most recently, Duvian Montoya has been influenced by nature. When discussing his inspiration during this period of self-isolation, he said, "After a few days of quarantine I began getting cues from nature and its cycle of life. While on a family walk in the woods, I thought that the acorn would be a great example of change, hibernation and rebirth. With this piece I hope to uplift people that are struggling with the change into believing in the rebirth of a new and hopeful world."



Duvian Montoya, *Inception/Rebirth/Genesis*, 2020, gouache on paper

Activity: Create a symbol of rebirth with our Bird's Nest Activity.

Activity: Go outside and complete our Nature Bingo Activity.