

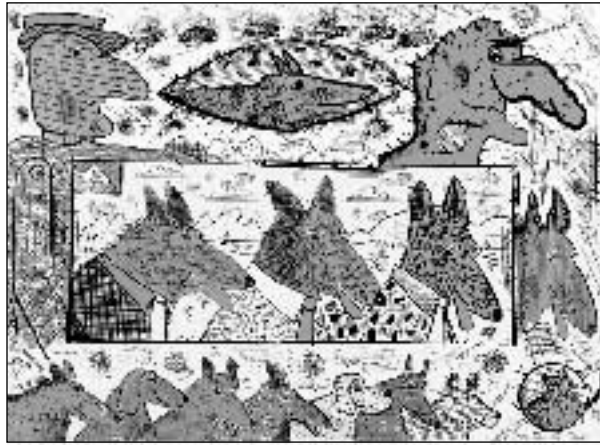
CALIFORNIA ARTISTS

Projects for Kids

Roy De Forest

of weird humans & zany animals. As an influential teacher at the University of California at Davis he shared his humor, serious commitment to art making & passion for individualistic thinking.

Roy De Forest (1930-2007) was an outstanding member of the California arts community. His imaginative paintings, drawings, prints & sculptures captured a colorful world of weird humans & zany animals. As an influential teacher at the University of California at Davis he shared his humor, serious commitment to art making & passion for individualistic thinking.



Roy De Forest, *Shepherd Brothers*, 2006, Lithograph, 22.5 in. x 30 in., Courtesy of John Natsoulas Center for the Arts, © Estate of Roy De Forest/ Licensed by VAGA, New York

Party Animals

Roy De Forest taught at UC Davis from 1965 to 1992, encouraging students in unusual projects. In his drawing classes he often gave assignments to create imaginary scenes with odd creatures, strange houses or unusual events. As he encouraged students to practice drawing by creating their own magical worlds, he continued creating his own work peopled with animals & wacky happenings.

- ◆ Imagine if animals were people. How different the world would be! Picture a dog birthday party, a horse reading a good night story, or a cat lounging at the pool.
- ◆ Draw your own imaginary scene. Change everyday events, dwellings, furniture & transportation to fit the animals.
- ◆ Let your ideas help you draw. Have fun!



Artwork by Devina A, grade 3



Clay Animals

Roy De Forest put whimsical animals into 3-d creations that included dog benches, moving sculptures & animal figures. Try making your own clay animals. Pinch animal shapes from clay balls or trace & cut shapes from flattened clay slabs.

Artwork by Romero & Paolo, grade 2

Whimsical Portrait

Roy De Forest was born in Nebraska to a farm worker family during the Great Depression. As a child, he was always around animals: sheep, goats, cows, pigs & lots of dogs. He filled his paintings with dogs & animals, some with beady eyes, others grinning, others intent & focused. By drawing descriptive details, Roy De Forest gave each animal an almost human personality & expression.

- ◆ Plan a portrait of a favorite animal to show its distinct personality.
- ◆ Outline main shapes with crayon. Add varied lines for textures. Exaggerate shapes & colors.
- ◆ Use watercolor paints to fill shapes with bright colors.



Artwork by (left to right) Michaela D, grade 4; Sione M, grade 3 & Kacy C, grade 5



Roy De Forest, *Fred*, 1978, Varnished polymer on canvas, 30 x 30.38", Courtesy of the di Rosa Preserve, Napa, California. Photo: Steffen Kriebitz, © Estate of Roy De Forest/ Licensed by VAGA, New York



Roy De Forest, *Country Dog Gentlemen*, 1972, polymer on canvas, 66 3/4 in. x 97 in. (169.55 cm x 246.38 cm) San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Gift of the Hamilton-Wells Collection 73.32, © Estate of Roy De Forest/ Licensed by VAGA, New York

Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Read & retell a news story using animals as the main characters. How will the details change?
- ◆ Search the newspaper for animals. How are they featured in news stories, advertisements & logos?
- ◆ See other artwork by Roy De Forest at: www.natsoulas.com/html/artists/royDeForest/Roy.html

Bright Animal Worlds

Roy De Forest studied art history & the work of fellow artists for ideas & techniques. He constantly experimented with new ways to put pigments & paints onto paper & wood. He planned his own imaginary scenes with interlocking shapes that filled every inch of his canvas with thickly painted, bright colors. Final patterns & textures made his imaginary dog worlds come alive.

- ◆ Plan, draw & paint a bright animal world. Where is it? What's happening?
- ◆ Draw an animal character. Add other creatures.
- ◆ Draw large background shapes. Plan out & divide your entire paper into shapes. Outline each shape: sky, tree, animal & ground shapes, etc.
- ◆ Color or paint each shape with bright colors. When dry, add colorful details, dots & textures.



Artwork by Lakshmi K, grade 3