



Lesson Plan: #NoyesArtatHome

Rodrigue “Blue Dog” Painting Project

Overview: George Rodrigue (1944-2013) was born and raised in Cajun Louisiana, the inspiration for much of his artwork. He is best known for his “Blue Dog” paintings, based on a Cajun mythical creature, the “loup-garou” (loo-gah-ROO), or werewolf. This iconic blue dog bears a striking resemblance to the Rodrigue family dog, “Tiffany”! Rodrigue’s artwork gave him a way to preserve his Cajun cultural heritage and to comment on life.

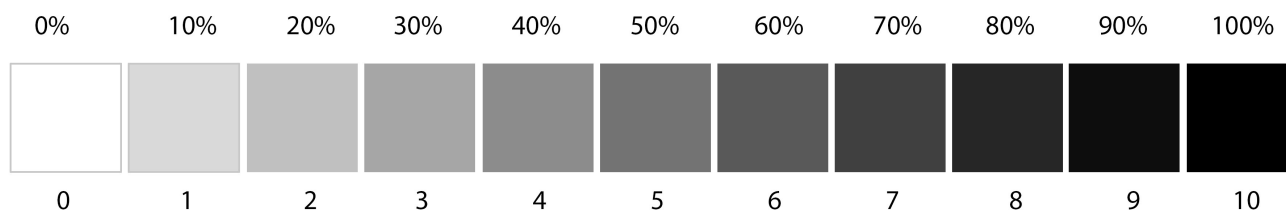
Project Description: Rodrigue created this iconic, simple blue dog with yellow eyes, but something was always different in each painting: a creative theme, background or props. In this project you will paint your own “blue dog” and add unique accessories and vibrant colors!

Supplies:

Canvas, canvas board or mixed-media paper
Acrylic paint or tempera paint
Paint brushes
Pencil

Steps:

1. First, take a look at George Rodrigue’s artwork, “Bear Walls” (see above.)
2. Notice the simple color palette. Rodrigue’s “Blue Dogs” often include three **values** of blue. In art, a **value** is the lightness or darkness of a color, on a scale from 0% to 100%. See the **value** scale below (for the purpose of illustration, from white to black.)



George Rodrigue, *Bear Walls*, 1997,
acrylic on canvas

3. The three **values** of blue in your artwork should align with #2, #5, and #9.
4. The dog has bright, piercing, circular yellow eyes that **contrast** with the dark blue and black rings around the eyes and the center pupil. **Contrast** in an artwork refers to opposite elements and effects, such as light and dark colors. Remember these terms as you begin to paint your own blue dog!
5. On your canvas, canvas board or mixed-media paper, begin to sketch out the blue dog in pencil. Decide if he will be centered on the canvas, off-centered, large, or small.
6. Start with the head. Draw a horizontal, squished oval shape. Then, lightly, draw a line horizontally through the oval. His eyes will be centered on this line.
7. For his snout and mouth, under the oval of his head, draw a “U” shape.
8. Draw two triangles for his ears. Make sure the ears are lop-sided, not **symmetrical**, one ear should be higher than the other. Something that is **symmetrical** has corresponding similar parts: in other words, one side is the same as the other. <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/symmetrical>
9. For the body of the blue dog, draw a vertical oblong shape, attached to the oval of his head.
10. Draw two front legs and paws that connect to the dog’s body.
11. Next, decide which back leg you want on the left or right side. In our example on page one, “Bear Walls,” the back leg on the left is shaped like a backwards “L.” The back leg on the right is close to the front paw, and we see less of it.
12. Draw in the details of the dog’s face. Draw the outline of the long white patch on his snout, draw the expressive eyebrows, tufts of fur, details around the eyes, and in the ears.
13. Think of a fun element and add it to your drawing. It could be a funny costume, funky background, realistic landscape, or an interesting prop. What do you want your artwork to say about life? Look at page three of this lesson plan for inspiration from other Rodrigue Blue Dog paintings.
14. Finally, paint your blue dog artwork using vivid colors. Make sure to include three blue **values** on the dog. When you mix the paint for **values** #5 and #9, slowly add tiny amounts of black to the blue until you reach your desired **value**. Small amounts of black go a long way! Then, paint your additional details and props.
15. Is your piece comical or serious? Does it tell a story? What do you like best about your final painting, and what would you change?
16. For an additional project, replace the blue dog with your pet or an animal that you like! Draw and paint your animal in a funny scene in a “blue dog” style!

To learn more about George Rodrigue visit: <https://georgerodrigue.com/>

Share pictures of your artwork with us!

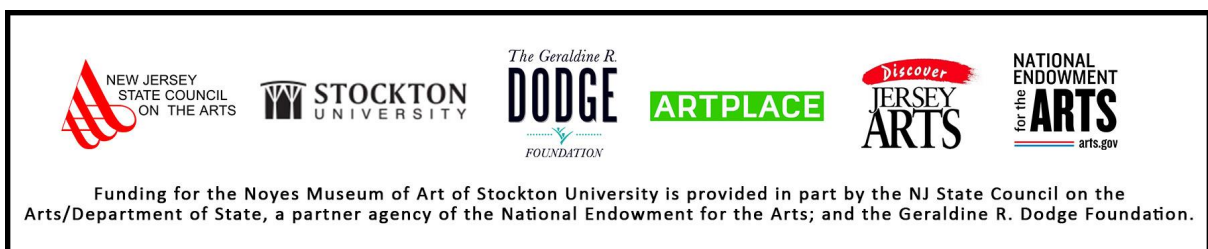
Post your pictures using the hashtag **#NoyesArtatHome**.

We are posting work by community artists on our Noyes Museum social media pages.

The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University · <http://www.noyesmuseum.org> · (609) 626-3420

The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University · www.artsgarageac.com · (609) 626-3805

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Page 3: Examples of George Rodrigue's "Blue Dogs" Artworks

