

WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Janet Sobel

ARTIST INTRO:

Janet Sobel (1894-1968) was a Ukrainian-American artist who immigrated to Brooklyn, NY in 1908 as a child. Sobel was a self-taught artist, housewife, and mother who began her painting figurative and folk like-artwork that eventually evolved into groundbreaking abstraction. Sobel used music as inspiration and expressed her emotions through her paintings. Her art helped her relieve past trauma and was a safe place for her imagination to run wild. In 1945 she was included Peggy Guggenheim's exhibition *The Women* and was the first artist to use the *drip painting* technique that Jackson Pollock (inspired by her artworks) became famous for. Only recently has she been recognized for her career as well as achievements as an early founder of the Abstract Expressionist movement. Today you can find her work at major museums like The Museum of Modern Art in NYC.

ARTWORK:





**Janet Sobel,
Milly Way 1945**

WORKSHOP:

Let's create 'allover' artworks inspired by Janet Sobel's drip paintings!

1. Go outside with any paint, paper, brushes and water (with cup)
2. Find a large space that you can move around and get a little messy 😊
3. Place your paper or other materials on the ground
4. Put on some music (optional)
5. Before you begin painting, think about how you are *feeling* and how you'd like to express that feeling (color, rhythm, movement, etc.)
6. Dip your brush in the paint, add a little water & then tap, shake, and move your brush around the paper to create your *drips*
7. Change colors, give a little time to dry in between, and cover the whole piece of paper with your *drips*
8. When you're finished with your artwork think about how you are feeling once again and share your painting with friends, family and fellow students!

MATERIALS:

- Paint (any kind)
- Brushes
- Water
- Paper, Canvas, or any other found material (ex: cardboard)



“I

only

paint what

I feel.”

– Janet Sobel



FOLLOW UP:

What were you feeling before you started painting?

What did you feel like after?

Did you like the drip painting technique? How did you apply your paint *all-over* the canvas? Was there a certain rhythm you moved too while you were painting? Did music help influence your painting? How?

How did you express your feeling(s) through your artwork? By colors? Action? Technique? Or all? What did your finished artwork express to you? What did others see in your artwork when you shared it?

Was there any special meaning after you created it?

Wide Rainbow is a 501c3 contemporary art after school program.

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