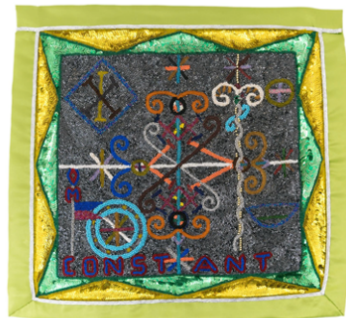


WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Myrlande Constant

ARTIST INTRO:

Myrlande Constant (b. 1968) is a Haitian female contemporary artist celebrated for her work in the male-dominated tradition of *drapo Vodou* or *Vodou flags*. Constant's mother was a seamstress, and her father was a vodou priest, inspiring her to become an artist that "paints with beads". For the past 30 years she has been creating dazzling and painstakingly beautiful, sequined tapestries that depict everything from Afro-Haitian history, Vodou Spirits, to scenes from everyday life. Constant is known for her monumental and hand-beaded textiles that weave stories of her own personal identity, religious practice, and community.

ARTWORK:





Myrlande Constant
Après Gran Met La Fey Nan Bwa Se Tretman Tyovi Yo, 2022
Beads, sequins, and tassels on fabric
80 x 112 inches

WORKSHOP:

Let's take inspiration from artist Myrlande Constant and paint with beads!

1. Consider the tradition of *drapo Vodou* or *Vodou* flags that come from West African roots and Haitian religion. These flags were used to tell religious and ethnic stories for ritual and for artmaking.
Myrlande Constant also depicted scenes from her everyday life...
2. What story do you want to tell? Or scene from your life that you would like to share? Write it down and begin to draw that story with your pencil and paper
3. Use your felt or fabric as the canvas or background for your story, then gather the beads, sequins and other found materials you would like to 'paint with' and get creative
4. Arrange and glue all the pieces together on your felt to create your own special flag inspired by artist Myrlande Constant!

MATERIALS:

- Beads, Sequins, or other found, materials
- Glue (Hot glue gun / sticks optional)
- Felt or found fabric
- Paper
- Pencil

**“Beads were the
medium that I
knew, and I
realized I could
try and make
paintings .”**

**- Myrlande
Constant**

A woman with long, light-brown dreadlocks is the central figure, looking slightly to her right. She is wearing a white shirt with bold, vertical stripes in red, blue, and yellow. The background is a large, intricate artwork made of beads and sequins, featuring various figures and patterns in a rich color palette of greens, yellows, pinks, and blues. The overall scene is vibrant and artistic.

FOLLOW UP:

How did you begin your artwork?

With a drawing? A story? Or by taking inspiration from your materials?

Did you like the idea of *painting with beads*?

What was that process like for you?

How did your artwork share something special and unique about you?

What story or scene did you share?

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