Robert Rauschenberg

The artist Robert Rauschenberg collected things he found, like old tires, stuffed animals, newspapers, paint, and fabric, and used them to create art. He called these works of art “combines” because they were made from unusual combinations of objects.

Look Closely

Spend a few minutes looking closely at these works of art.

What materials did Rauschenberg use?

What shapes do you see?

What colors do you see?

The paper Rauschenberg used has writing on it. Can you read any of the words?

Compare and Contrast

How are these two works of art similar?

How are they different?
Use Your Imagination

Robert Rauschenberg used ordinary items from his daily life to make works of art. If you were making a combine, what things from your daily life would you use?

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Sometimes Rauschenberg used images of famous people or events from newspapers or magazines. What images would you use?

__________________________________________________________________________

Sometimes Rauschenberg used personal mementos, like newspaper clippings about his family or an article of clothing. What personal items would you use in your combine?

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What title would you give your work of art?

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Make Connections

How do these works of art make you feel?

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Robert Rauschenberg (American, 1925–2008), Gift for Ileana, 1959. Combine painting: oil, printed paper, graphite, tape, and fabric collage, 52.1 x 44.4 x 3.8 cm (framed). Sonnabend Collection