

I can make ART like 

Sculptor Kai Chan challenges us to see the beauty in ordinary things. An acclaimed visual artist, he has the incredible ability to transform the most mundane materials – tree trimmings or plastic shopping bags – into delicate and delightful works of art.

In *I Can Make ART like Kai Chan*, he shares his artistic philosophy of economy and repetition with young artists who build extraordinary and complex 3D structures using simple materials and basic techniques.

Playful and powerful, *I Can Make ART like Kai Chan* demystifies the creative process and inspires us to stop and take another look at the world around us.

I Can Make ART is a series of six short films that take a kids'-eye view on a diverse group of Canadian visual artists.

Written and Directed by JANE CHURCHILL
Producer TAMARA LYNCH
Series Art Consultant NANCY RETALLACK-LAMBERT
Executive Producer SALLY BOCHNER
Director of Photography KENT NASON
Editor JOEY CALUGAY
Music Composed by ERIC LEMOYNE


Other films in the series:
I Can Make ART like Andrew Qappik
I Can Make ART like Emily Carr
I Can Make ART like Marcelle Ferron
I Can Make ART like Maud Lewis
I Can Make ART like Ron Noganosh

User's guide included on inside of videojacket.
For more information on the series,
visit <www.nfb.ca/icanmakeart>.

11 minutes 21 seconds

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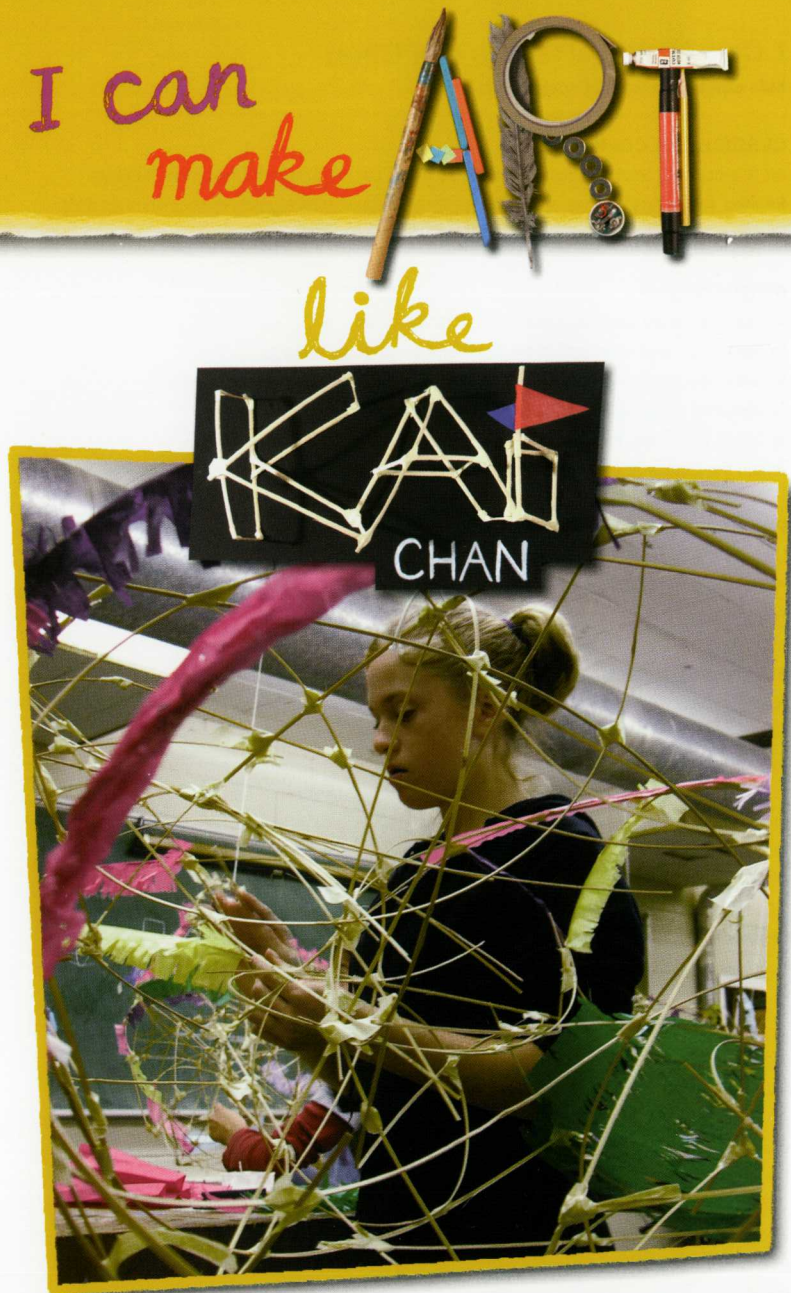
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I can make ART



like



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I Can Make ART like Kai Chan

Kids explore the work of sculptor Kai Chan.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Art is a powerful vehicle across the curriculum and can be integrated into other subjects.

Related subjects: language arts/social studies/environmental studies/science/mathematics

Suitable for ages 9-12

OBJECTIVES

To discover the art and influences of sculptor Kai Chan.

To develop an understanding of structure and supporting systems.

To learn about formal elements of sculpture, including shape, line and repetition.

To construct and elaborate on a three-dimensional form.

To create works that express space, rhythm and pattern.

To see the beauty in everyday objects.

PREVIEWING TIPS AND POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Look at examples of Kai's work and other types of sculpture. Discuss the following points:

What is sculpture? How is sculpture different from other art? What materials does Kai use?

What kinds of things can inspire an artist?

SCULPTING WITH BAMBOO

With just bamboo, masking tape and some basic techniques, the kids will learn to expand a basic 2D shape into a 3D form and finally into a multi-layered structure. The work is finished with an application of tissue paper.

Begin by introducing the three basic shapes: circle, triangle and square. Have students find images in architecture, nature and art that capture and express each one. Do the same with the 3D images of a sphere, pyramid and cube. Students will begin to see the connection between shapes in their creations and shapes in the world around them.

Materials

- Scissors
- Thin strips of bamboo (taken from a natural bamboo blind)
- Good quality masking tape to hold joints
- White glue in small lidded containers (use short pieces of bamboo for spreading)
- An assortment of colourful tissue papers

Found objects: Encourage students to bring in materials to personalize their constructions; these could include a found object or a bottle that could be worked into their piece.

Preparation

Arrange desks or tables in groups or long lines so that students can work together and share materials and tools. As sculptures grow, students may want to work on the floor or tie their constructions to strings suspended from the ceiling.

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Sound Editor
TONY REED

Foley Artist
KARLA BAUMGARDNER

Re-recording
**SHELLEY CRAIG
GEOFFREY MITCHELL**

Sound Recordist
ARTHUR MCKAY

Technique

Three basic joints are used to connect strips of bamboo:

Overlap: Pieces of bamboo are overlapped and taped.

End-to-end: Ends of bamboo pieces are butted against each other and taped.

Cross: Bamboo strips are positioned across one another and taped.

TIP: Have students use their heads, hands and feet to measure lengths of bamboo for their shapes. This will ensure shapes are in proportion to one another and are in a manageable size (head = circle, hand = square, foot = triangle).

Session 1 – Building shapes

Demonstrate the construction of 2D shapes (circle, triangle, square) using the three basic joints. Then have students build the shapes.

Demonstrate how to expand on 2D shapes to construct 3D forms such as a sphere, pyramid or cube. Have the students experiment creating 3D forms.

Have students put tape name tags on all of their pieces.

Session 2 – Joining forms, adding strength, taking shape

Demonstrate how to join shapes. Students join shapes, add support and elaborate on their structures. Demonstrate where and how to add strength and support.

Session 3 – Adding interest

The work is finished with the application of tissue paper, which is an exercise in form, space, light, colour and pattern.

Apply white glue to the bamboo, then attach the tissue. Students can use patterned strips, fringes and solid pieces. Use a small piece of bamboo to spread the glue.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Place the finished sculptures around the room. Give everyone a chance to look at the work and hold a group discussion:

- What is most amazing about the finished work?
- How does your work capture or reflect you?
- How does your work show Kai's influence or inspiration?
- What was most difficult about the process? What was most fun?
- Describe the shapes, the rhythm and pattern in the pieces.
- How does the negative and positive space work in the sculptures?
- What does the tissue paper add to the piece?
- Does the title add to the work?

Finally, have students pick a piece other than their own and tell the class what they like best about it.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Research different kinds of sculpture and the materials used to make them.
2. Hold a student art show.
3. Find out about sculptors in your community.
4. Plan a field trip to an art gallery, museum or an artist's studio.
5. Invite an artist to come to your classroom.

For more information, visit the I Can Make ART Web site at <www.nfb.ca/icanmakeart>.