



Robert Indiana, *Decade Autoportrait 1963*, 1971, oil on canvas, 48 x 48"

Decade: Autoportrait 1963 is one of ten paintings that Indiana created in 1971, as meditations upon the time he spent in Manhattan during the 1960s when he gained international fame.

This piece shows some subjective autobiographical motifs. "IND" is shorthand for the artist's home state, as well as his chosen moniker (the artist's birth name is Robert Clark). "EAT" is often associated with Indiana's mother, who spent the artist's childhood working in roadside diners, and whose last words to her son were, "Did you have something to eat?"

To learn more about this piece go [here](#).

Activity: Word Art - Create bold and colorful designs using words as inspiration.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Coloring tools such as markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Directions:

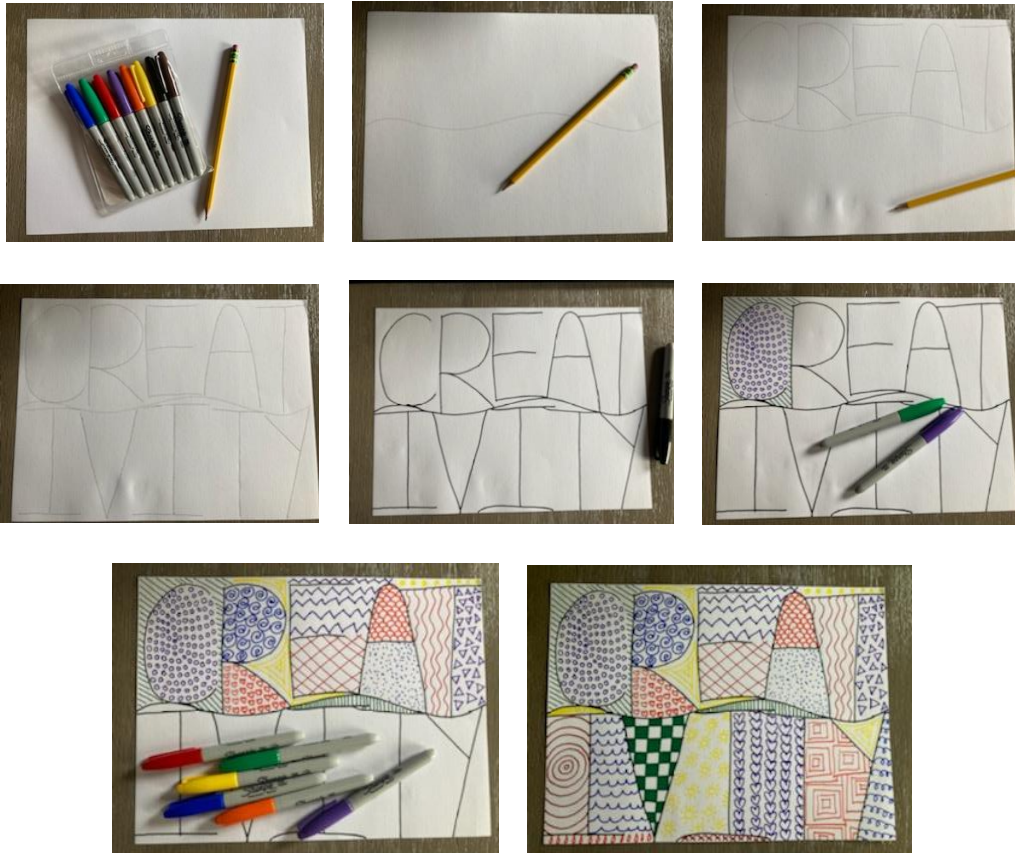
- Use your pencil to divide your paper in half with a line. The line can be curvy or straight
- Select a word that inspires you, such as "creativity"
- Use the pencil to fill the paper with the word, creating large letters that fill both halves of the paper
- Use your coloring tools to make the letters bold
- Use your coloring tools to add patterns to the sections of paper created by the letters, such as hearts, stripes, and polka dots
- Continue adding pattern and color until you have reached all areas

Tips:

- Try using other words and dividing your paper further by adding two lines instead of one

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