

OUT OF
THE BAG

ART MODULE
IAIN BAXTER &
+ BAGGED ORANGES



Iain Baxter, *Bagged Day-Glo Oranges*, 1967

ART MODULE | IAIN BAXTER& + BAGGED ORANGES

INTRODUCTION

Taking cues from Iain Baxter&'s artwork, students create their own bagged fruit artwork.

OBJECTIVE

This guide provides information and an activity lesson plan to inspire students to explore artistic creation and to learn about artist Iain Baxter& and his playful but **conceptually**-driven work. *Bagged Day-Glo Oranges* is typical of his work at the time that included 'bagged' artistic objects like oranges, landscape-based artwork, and even a 'bagged' apartment. This work is lighthearted and even humorous, but also has social commentary that still resonates today, at a time when bags and plastics surround us and have serious environmental implications. *Bagged Day-Glo Oranges* is part of Burnaby Art Gallery's Permanent Collection.

AGE GROUP

Grades 1-5

PROGRAM LENGTH

45-60 minutes

CURRICULAR TIES

- » Creative expression develops our unique identity and voice.
- » Describe and respond to works of art.
- » Inquiry through the arts creates opportunities for risk taking.
- » Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice.
- » Artists experiment in a variety of ways to discover new possibilities and perspectives.
- » Interpret and communicate ideas using symbolism in the arts.
- » Explore elements, processes, materials, and techniques of the arts.
- » Observe and share how artists use processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools and techniques.

ARTWORK

Bagged Day-Glo Oranges, 1967, 50cmx38cm. 1968.2

ARTIST BIO

Iain Baxter& is a longstanding Canadian artist who has been creating art for over 50 years. He worked as half of the North Vancouver-based conceptual team N.E. Thing Co. with Ingrid Baxter from 1966-1978. His work includes painting, sculpture, **installation** and photography. Baxter& has received a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts (2004) and was named an Officer of the Order of Canada (2003). He teaches at the University of Windsor and continues to exhibit work internationally.

QUERIES

- » Why do you think Baxter& chose this subject matter?
- » Discuss the materials the artist has used. Why a real plastic bag?
- » How does the title relate to the content of the work?
- » How is this different than a bag of oranges from the grocery store?

ART MODULE | IAIN BAXTER& + BAGGED ORANGES

ART ACTIVITY Bagged Fruit

Iain Baxter& used the idea of bagging objects for many years in his art practice. His *Bagged Landscape* works, many of which were done with Ingrid Baxter and N.E. Thing Co., showed typical landscape themes, like mountains and lakes, that were made of coloured vinyl encased in clear pouches. These represented a common art subject in a contemporary and unusual way. The materials responded to the widespread use of plastics in every-day life, and the idea of bagging, or a containing and separation of things.

Within this work are themes of ecological concerns and a playful commentary on traditional art subjects. For *Bagged Day-Glo Oranges*, the artist has chosen something fairly **mundane** — a bag of oranges — but has created it through a combination of colour on paper, a real plastic bag and a twist tie. For this activity, students will create their own bagged fruit artwork.

Materials:

2 sheets white paper (11x17 inches approx.)	Pencil crayons or markers
1 clear plastic bag	Scissors
Twist tie or bread clip	Glue
Pencil	Fruit



Begin by thinking about what kind of fruit to use as a subject — oranges, apples and bananas can all be fun. Set the fruit up on a clean sheet of paper or plate at an art-making surface such as a table.



With a sheet of white paper, begin drawing the shape of the fruit, leaving enough room to draw multiples. The size of the fruit drawn should be able to fit as multiples in a bunch inside the plastic bag.

3 Notice how Baxter& has used denser colour and more orange marks where there are shadows on the oranges. Likewise, he has used less colour in areas that have lighter highlights. Look at your fruit and notice which areas are darker and which are lighter. After drawing in the shape of the fruit, colour it in with coloured pencil or marker. Try using just one or two colours — for example two shades of yellow for a banana, or green or red for an apple.



ART MODULE | IAIN BAXTER& + BAGGED ORANGES

ART ACTIVITY Bagged Fruit

4



As you finish colouring each fruit, cut it out and place it aside. Once there is a grouping of enough fruit, bunch them together so that the grouping will fit in the plastic bag. The amount of fruit and the arrangement will depend on the size of the bag. Play around with different arrangements or use Baxter&'s work as a guide — he created 17 small oranges.

5



Carefully glue all the fruit together and let it dry. If glue isn't available, scotch tape can be used on the back side of the fruit to hold it together.

6



After the fruit is securely glued together, gently place it in the clear plastic bag and apply the twist tie to the top of the bag.

7

Before the next step, try placing the bagged fruit in different places, such as a fruit bowl, or on a shelf, to see how it looks.

8

Glue the back of the plastic bag and centre it on a sheet of white paper, leaving some white space around the bag. Tape folded back on itself can also be used to attach the bag to the paper. Notice how the act of putting the bagged fruit on a white background changes it from being a sculptural object, to a 2-dimensional artwork. Does this change your impression of the artwork?

9

Title the work (e.g. *Bagged Bright Yellow Bananas*) and sign your name!



ART MODULE | IAIN BAXTER& + BAGGED ORANGES

TERMS

Mundane Lacking interest or excitement; dull.

Conceptual Art Artwork that emphasizes the ideas behind it. Sometimes the artwork exists only as the idea, rather than as a physical object.

Baxter& In 2005, Iain Baxter& added the & (ampersand) to his name, as a way of highlighting a collaborative approach in which the audience plays an important role in artistic conversation.

Installation Artwork occupying a room or space that the viewer can physically engage with instead of just visually.

SHARE

Share your awesome artwork online

 #outofthebag  @BurnabyArtGallery

