

Removing the Artist's Hand

ABOUT the artists!

Artists Gabriel Kuri (born in 1970) and Sol LeWitt (born in 1928) did not create these works of art. Instead, they came up with the idea for their artworks and then had someone else actually make them. This is called "Removing the Artist's Hand."

In Gabriel Kuri's *Untitled (Superama)*, Kuri thought of the idea to turn a receipt from a Wal Mart store in Mexico into a beautiful tapestry. Because the kind of weaving used to make this tapestry is very complicated, and comes from a very old tradition in Guadalajara, Mexico, Kuri asked weavers in Guadalajara to make the tapestry. Like LeWitt, Kuri gave the weavers very specific directions on how to make the artwork.

In Sol LeWitt's *Isometric Pyramid*, the artist had an idea for this artwork and wrote very specific directions for how to create it. Then he sold his directions so that other people could create *Isometric Pyramid*. The painting you see here was not actually painted by LeWitt, but by the art handlers at the museum who were given the directions.

Do you think if you wrote directions for creating an artwork, that someone else could create what you had in mind? Why or why not?

NOW It's your Turn!

Materials:



- Piece of paper
- Pencil



Sol LeWitt, *Isometric Pyramid*, Color ink washes, 1983. Museum purchase, Contemporary Collectors Fund 1986.32. ©Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

Directions:

Create directions for a piece of artwork that someone else will create. Think of an idea for your artwork. You could think of something you wanted to paint, like Sol LeWitt, or you could think of an object that you wanted to turn into art, like Gabriel Kuri.

Write a very specific set of directions on how to make your masterpiece. Have your friends use your written instructions to see if they can create what you had in mind!



Gabriel Kuri, *Untitled (Superama)*, Hand woven gobelin, 2003. Museum purchase with funds from Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego 2004.18. ©Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

