

The PIVEN WORKSHOP



The songs, traditions, images, and culture of an educational setting serve as glue for the overall experience. By engaging with the vibrant kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, tastes, ideas, people, and culture of Israel, we present an ideal vehicle for experiencing and expressing a vibrant vision of Israel. This cultural immersion provides a reflection on the heart of the people and the pulse of society.

Using the art and methodology of popular Israeli artist **Hanoch Piven**, we can encourage learners to explore Israel's culture, values, and history, their own surroundings and identities, and their personal connections to Israel.

Hanoch Piven is a leading contemporary Israeli artist whose whimsical portraits tell stories with surprising depth and complexity. His work depicting prominent people, from Albert Einstein and Steve Jobs to Barack Obama and Saddam Hussein, is created using a wide array of seemingly random objects—but every object tells a story and carries meaning. It's amazing how much you can learn about a person from the objects Piven selects for each of his portraits.

Piven's methodology provides multiple opportunities for creative exploration and learning: Participants can learn about famous people through what the artist calls the language of objects, and they can reinforce ideas about people with whom they're already familiar. His traditional portraits are made of objects that tell viewers about the person. Steve Jobs' body is represented by an old iPhone, Homer Simpson's mouth is the lid of a trash can, and Albert Einstein's nose is a bright light bulb. Each object tells a story, and when the story is not immediately clear—great conversations ensue!

We commissioned Piven to create five portraits of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion. Unlike his traditional work, these portraits shed light on Israeli

About Hanoch Piven

Born:

August 21, 1963

Montevideo, Uruguay

Immigrated to Israel at age 11

Studied:

School of Visual Arts, New York

Graduated 1992

Website:

www.pivenworld.com

society rather than on Ben-Gurion himself. These thematic portraits are filled with stories and symbols exploring different aspects of the country's people, values, culture, places, and history. Taken individually, they offer many entry points into conversations about Israel with participants and facilitators. As a group, they can stimulate rich discussion and thought about the place of Israel in our lives.

We think you'll agree that Piven's style is fun, accessible, and relatable for your participants—who doesn't enjoy his approach to portraits and storytelling?—and his work can foster deep exploration about the people and ideas it highlights. The thematic Ben-Gurion portraits can be used in arts and crafts programs, as well as in many other learning environments. They can prompt quick, powerful conversations about Israel and participants' relationships with the country—ideal for small group discussions, camp cabin activities, informal learning environments, and more.

The Piven Workshop is filled with programmatic ideas that can be used on a mix-and-match basis. Elements can be used as quick conversation-starters or short activities; alternately, several components can be combined for as much time as you'd like.

We look forward to seeing what you create together!



SOURCE: www.pivenworld.com