

The PEOPLE WE KNOW

Hanoch Piven's portraits tell amazing stories about famous people. By using an astounding array of found objects (some people might call it "junk") to create likenesses of people as diverse as Steve Jobs, Theodor Herzl, Barack Obama, and Saddam Hussein, his work offers insights into the lives, values, and achievements of characters who dominate history books and headlines.

In this workshop, campers will have an opportunity to create portraits, using Piven's methodology, of counselors or staff who make up the camp community as a way of getting better acquainted with them.

Piven created a **video** (theicenter.org/whatarewemadeof) for you, recorded in his studio in Jaffa, Israel, describing his methodology and sharing stories. You may want to show it to campers; at the very least, staff should watch it before leading any Piven Workshop activities. It's bursting with energy and ideas!

PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

In order to create portraits of a variety of people who make up the camp community, campers will need to interview each person before they get to work. Divide campers into small groups and assign each group to one staff member who they will interview before the next workshop, when they will create a portrait of that staff member using seemingly random objects. Work with them to write down some questions that will help them get a better understanding of the person they are going to portray. Questions might include (use these as a guide, not as a specific list to distribute to campers!):

- > Do you have a favorite sport, food, singer, movie?
- > What did you like best in high school?
- > What did you do in the army? Tell us a story from your army service.
- > What's the craziest thing you ever did with your friends in school? What would you do if we did the same thing at camp right now?
- > What do you like about camp?
- > What do you like about Israel?



Tip

*This program can have even more impact if you connect it to Jewish values that your campers may be exploring in other areas of camp. Here are some that may work well: **Understanding, Curiosity, Amenability, Wonder, Community Mindedness, Compassionate Criticism.***



Fun fact

Piven is a Seeds of Peace Fellow, and he applies his art method to foster dialogue between Jews and Arabs.



Tip

Help campers consider the different counselors or staff they may be interviewing and tailor the questions to them. Encourage each group to think up really creative, crazy questions, but remind them to be respectful and not to push too hard in the interviews.



Before you send campers off to do their interviews, encourage them to bring “supplies” to the next session, based on what they learn in the interview (maybe a candy wrapper, a button, or anything else they think is appropriate).

At the next session, begin by introducing Piven. Refer to the Israel Resource Cards for more about the artist.

Once your campers understand the way Piven uses objects to tell stories, they're ready to create portraits of members of the camp community!

Place a wide array of random objects on a table in front of your campers. Invite them to browse the objects and select items they want to include in their portraits. Let them decide which items to include based on what they learned about their designated staff member in their interviews. Allow campers to work independently on their portraits for the next 30-45 minutes, visiting the “junk” table as often as they like.

When everyone is done, have campers share their work with each other and with the people they portrayed. You may decide to give the portraits to the staff members as a gift, or to hang them in a central location in camp. If you create a display, you might decide to give the portraits to staff as going-away gifts at the end of the summer.

WAYS TO USE AND ENHANCE

Campers can use this interview-and-art technique to get to know many members of the camp community. Think about letting groups of campers interview older or younger campers as a way of expanding the sense of community beyond their closest friends, bunk, and unit.

DETAILS

- > **Materials:** Poster board, glue guns, glue, tape, and lots and lots of small random objects
- > **Age:** Campers of all ages
- > **Size of group:** Ideal for 12-15 campers, but can also work with larger groups
- > **Duration:** 2 meetings of about 1 hour each



Tip

Bring campers (and co-staff) into the process of collecting “random objects!” Give them some time at the beginning of the activity to roam throughout camp looking for random objects to use. Encourage campers to gather as much (clean and safe) junk/stuff as possible. Natural materials such as leaves and twigs are good as well. Collecting and sorting materials allows participants to imagine different uses for the objects they find.



Taking it home

Facilitate discussion on the activity by helping campers reflect on the objects they used and the meaning behind them. The takeaways from this activity should include the tangible pride that comes from seeing one's work on display. Encourage campers to snap photos of their portraits and share with their friends and family at home, or let them display their portraits in different areas all around camp for others to see!



CREATE

