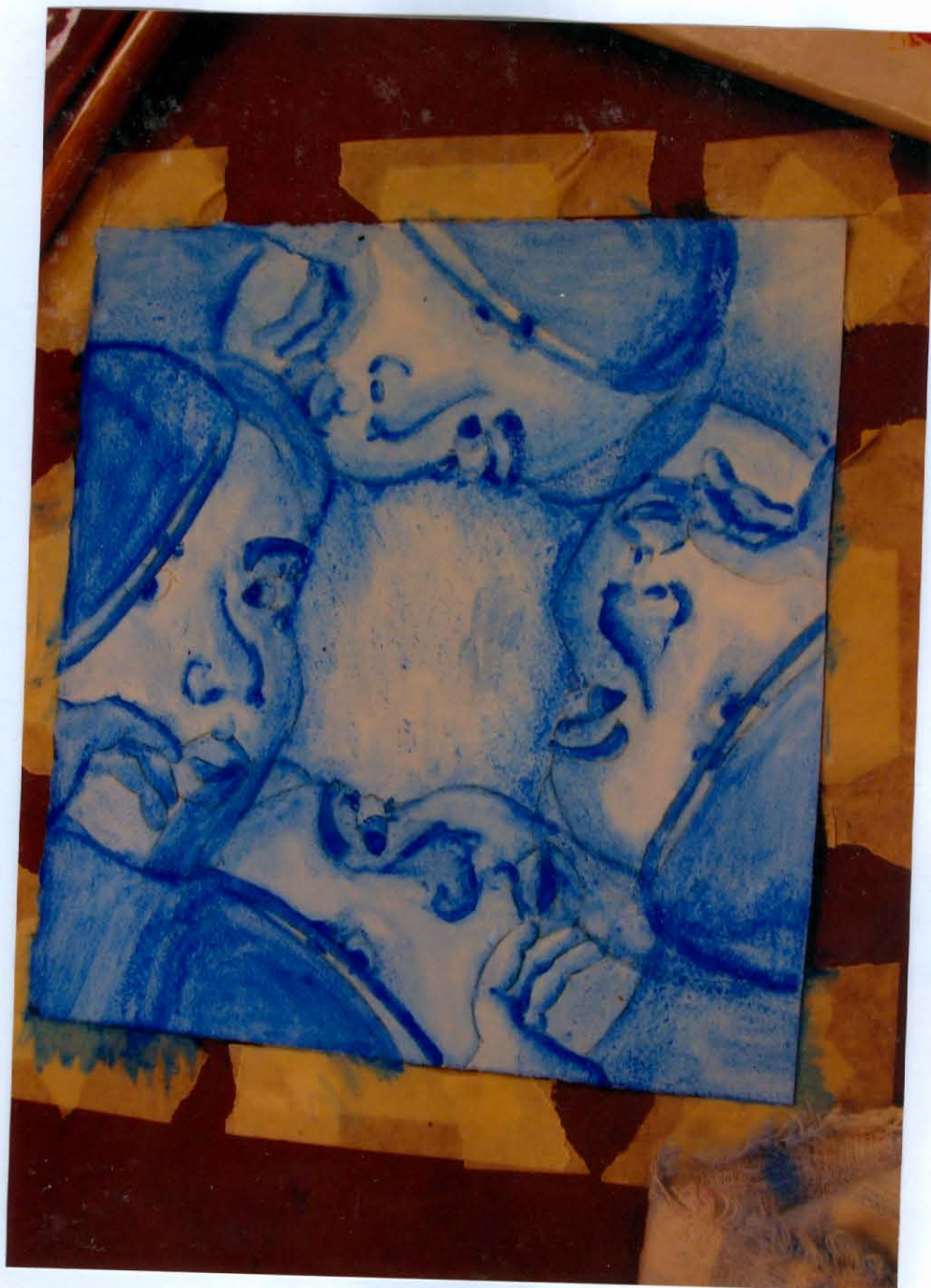


Abstraction in Oil: Understanding the Oil Painting Process



Goal: Students will create an abstract, self-portrait painting on gessoed paper.

Teacher: Kathryn Moran

Grade Level: 11-12

Title: Abstraction in Oil: Understanding the Oil Painting Process

Standards:

- 9.1A Elements and Principles in each art form
- 9.1C Vocabulary within each art form
- 9.2A A Context of Works in the Arts
- 9.2C Styles and Genres in art
- 9.2L Common Themes in works of art
- 9.3B Criteria
- 9.4B Aesthetic Interpretation
- 9.4D Artistic Choices

Goal: Students will create an abstract self-portrait oil painting on gessoed paper.

Objectives:

1. Students will become familiar with the process involved with oil paints; set up/clean up.
2. Students will be able to set up a palette using primary colors, secondary colors and white.
3. Students will create a one color, oil, rub out under painting.
4. Students will create one final self-portrait painting over their under painting.

Requirements:

1. One completed palette set up.
2. One piece of gessoed paper.
3. One oil rub out under painting.
4. One finished abstract self-portrait in oil.
5. One quiz on palette set up, oil paint set up and clean up.

Resources/Visual Aids:

- Examples of oil rub out paintings.
- Examples of abstract self-portraits.
- A large visual and step-by-step guide to palette set up.

Supplies/Materials:

- Freezer paper
- Masonite boards
- Heavy paper
- Inexpensive wrapping paper
- Masking Tape
- Oil paints
- Jars

- Rags
- Sable brushes (a variety of sizes)
- Drawing boards
- Mirrors
- Baggies for tools
- Newspaper
- Palette knives
- Gesso
- Gesso brushes

Teacher Preparation:

1. Obtain visual aids and materials
2. Cover masonite boards in freezer paper; this will be the palette example.
3. Create large visual of a palette.
4. Test gesso on several varieties of heavy weight paper.
5. Develop an oil paint palette set up and clean up quiz

Teaching:

Introduction:

The students have completed an abstract self-portrait drawing in their sketchbooks, so the introduction to this lesson is mainly demonstration. Gather all the students around a central table where the materials are all laid out. Demonstrate how to wrap the masonite board in wax paper. Demonstrate how to squeeze out a small amount of paint; about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch blob, and mix it with a knife; (mix it with medium: $\frac{1}{3}$ linseed oil, $\frac{1}{3}$ damar varnish, and $\frac{1}{3}$ turpentine). Demonstrate wrapping the drawing board in the cheap paper. On a piece of gessoed paper, demonstrate taping off the edges to create a border. Next, demonstrate the technique of laying on the oil and then rubbing it away to create highlight and lighter values. Explain that oil paint will remain wet for several days, so it is unnecessary to rush through this process. Describe what the consistency of the paint should be. Explain the concept of fat over lean; thinned out paint over thicker paint. Stress the importance of clean up and demonstrate proper cleaning techniques; cleaning the brushes in between colors by dipping them in the thinner and wiping them, dumping the turpentine into one communal jar, thoroughly cleaning the brushes, and where to dispose of rags, or paper towels.

Directions:

1. Students will empty all their projects and materials from their cubbies.
2. Students will wrap their masonite board in wax paper.
3. Students will wrap their drawing board in cheap brown paper.
4. Students will gesso paper.
5. When the paper is dry, students will tape a two-inch border around the outside of their paper and tape the paper to the drawing board.

6. Students will choose one color for their oil painting.
7. They will mix their color, using a palette knife, with a small amount of turpentine.
8. Students will lightly sketch their abstract self-portrait onto the gessoed paper.
9. When the students have finished their sketch they will cover the paper in a thin wash of the color of their choice; the color they choose may relate to the emotion they are trying to portray.
10. Students will pull out the highlights and lighter values using a rag or piece of paper towel.
11. Students will create darks and shadows by using paint with less medium.
12. When the student has completed the under painting, they may set up their palette, according to the visual and demo, and begin the final painting.

Closure:

There will be a discussion about the experiences the students have with the oil on the first day of the lesson. The discussion should include differences between oil and other paints, how comfortable the students feel with the oil, questions and a clean up assessment by the instructor.

Critique/Evaluation/Assessment: During the critique, the instructor must raise several questions:

- What were some differences you noticed between working with the oil and working with the ink?
- What types of abstraction do you see in these portraits?
- How did you choose your color for the under painting?
- Which works still show evidence of the under painting?
- Did you enjoy working wet on wet?

Extensions:

Time Budget: This lesson should take about five 80 minute block periods.

Safety Concerns:

The instructor must monitor the set up and clean up processes. The instructor must make sure the students dispose of all their garbage in one metal garbage can that will be emptied on a regular basis. The instructor must also make sure no turpentine is poured down the sink. Keep a large jar out at all times for old turpentine.

Bibliography:

Mayer, Ralph. The Artists Handbook of Materials and Techniques. Viking Penguin, New York: 1979.

Name:

AP Studio Art

Set-Up List for Oil Painting

1. Put on an apron; oil paint will stain your clothes.
2. Clean everything out of your cubbie so there is space to store your palette. Oil paint can remain wet for up to three days, so you want to make sure it does not come in contact with any of your other work.
3. Wrap a masonite board with freezer paper, covering the entire top and sides. Tape the edges of the freezer paper underneath the board. (Wrap it like a birthday present).
4. Cover your desk/work area with brown paper. Tape the paper underneath the desk.
5. In a glass jar; mix your medium: 1/3 linseed oil, 1/3 damar varnish, and 1/3 turpentine.
6. Squeeze inch blobs of paint around the outside of edges of your palette. Set it up like a color wheel; start with red and then orange and then yellow, and so on.
7. On the corner of the palette near the warm colors, squeeze a inch blob of white.
8. On the corner near the cool colors, squeeze a inch blob of white.
9. Check your brushes for cleanliness and you are ready to paint.

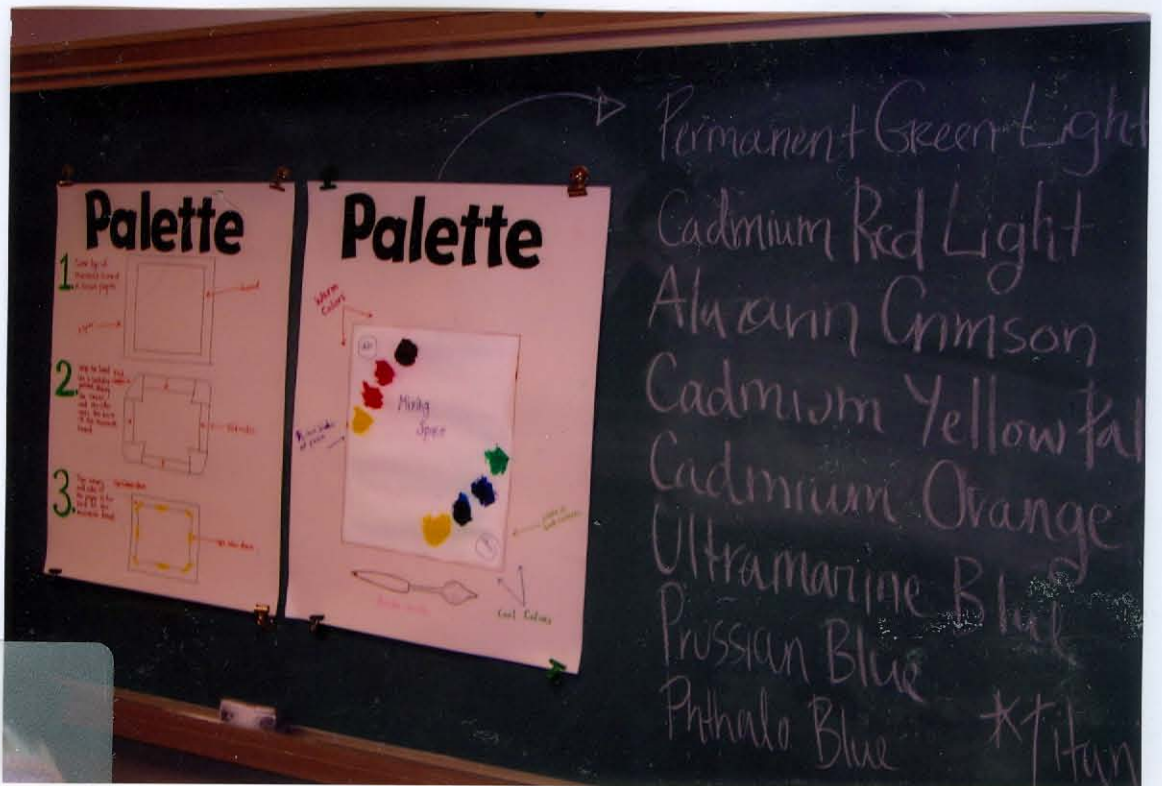
Clean-up List for Oil Painting

1. Dip your brushes in the medium and wipe them until they are thoroughly clean.
2. Wash brushes with soap and water.
3. Dry brushes.
4. Pour medium into a communal container.
5. Cover palette and carefully place in cubbie.
6. Unwrap desk from the bottom and fold the paper in on itself.
7. Dispose of paper in a separate garbage bag.
8. Thoroughly wash hands and remove apron.

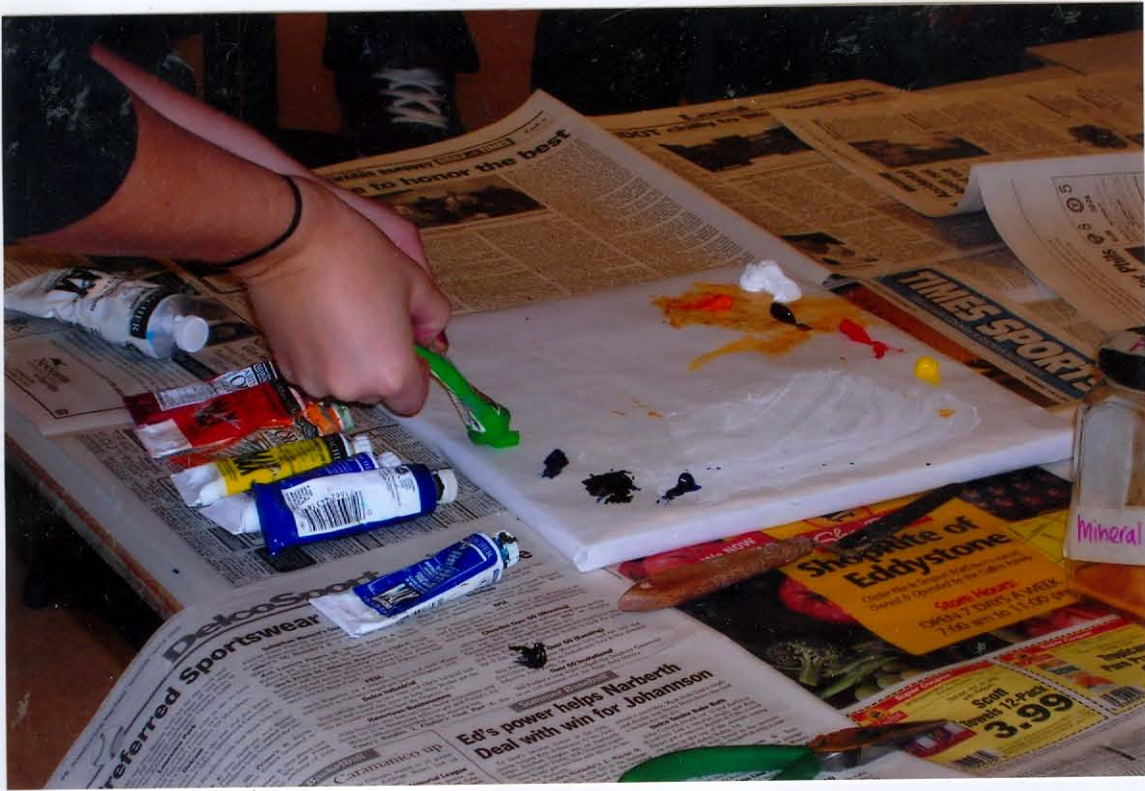




Examples



Classroom Setup







Extension Project
Art Major 1

1. Find an oddly shaped piece of paper on the circular table.
2. Find an object that will fit well in the composition of your shaped paper.
3. Draw the outside edges of the shape.
4. Paint the shape with tempera paint.
5. Shade with the oil pastel to create form, pull out highlights, and create expressive marks.
6. Gently brush the black cat ink over the image.
7. Rinse and gently blot.