

5th Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Portraits of Emotion

Element of Art: Color

Objective: to create a simple portrait which communicates emotion through the choice of colors used in the clothing and backdrop.

Artistic Influence: Local artist, Barry Johnson



Elements of Art:

Color

Materials:

- 90# white sulphite drawing paper (9"x 12")
- Pencil
- Paintbrushes (one medium-large and one small)
- Palette or paper plate
- Tempera or acrylic paint (the examples were painted with tempera paint, but acrylic paint would be more opaque and facilitate more vibrant colors)
- Water cups
- Paper towels and baby wipes

Instructions and notes:

1. Go through the slides.
2. Give the students time to absorb Barry Johnson's wonderful portraits and ask how they feel about them.
3. Spend a bit of time on slide 11 talking about how colors make people feel. While we often associate cool colors with peace and warm colors with energy, it is perfectly fine for students to draw different associations with these colors. Try to watch the clock during this discussion, though. Students will likely need a good 40 minutes to complete their paintings.
4. Students may find it helpful if, once you finish showing the slides, you go back to slide 13 "Step 3" that gives hints for drawing portraits. Remind them that the goal of the project is to convey emotion through color, so the details are less important than the overall color/mood of the painting. They should spend significantly less time on the initial drawing than on the painting.
5. Invite students to share their art and talk about the process if time allows.
6. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
7. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
8. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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The goal of this 5th grade lesson was to convey emotion in a painting by making certain colors dominant and to practice portrait painting.



Duality, Barry Johnson

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others.
(VA: Re7.1.5)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students explored their reaction to different colors and how they could convey emotion by the choice of color in their artwork. They also practiced their drawing skills in creating a simple portrait.

The inspiration for this lesson came from local artist Barry Johnson who uses color brilliantly in his compelling portraits.

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.