
Kindergarten LWSD Art Docent Project: Abstract Hearts

Element of Art: Shape

Objective: to teach students how to capture the contour lines of an object quickly, and to have them practice drawing lines without looking at the paper

Artistic Influence: American artist Reginald Laurent



Elements of Art:

Shape

- **Materials:**
- **Watercolor paper** (or other heavy paper with some tooth)
- **White oil pastels**
- **Paint brushes**
- **Watercolor paints**
- **Water cups**
- **Paper towels and baby wipes**

Instructions and notes:

1. After going through the slides and allowing the children to draw inspiration from Laurent's cheery and wonderfully colorful artwork, model for the children how to draw with white oil pastel – under a document camera if possible.
2. Explain that abstract art is art that is not representative – it does not represent a realistic scene.
3. The students will not be able to see the white on white paper, so show them how to lift the paper closer to their eyes or to lean closer to the paper and look at it from the side to see how the oil pastel reflects light differently than the paper itself. This will allow them to see the lines. They shouldn't worry about accuracy though; this is abstract painting, after all!
4. The students must finish drawing with the white oil pastel before getting the page wet and using the watercolor. You may want to give them water cups one by one, as they declare their drawings complete.
5. Have them start with red or bright pink for the heart. This project lends itself nicely to a Valentine's theme.
6. Teach students how to clean their brushes well with each color change, so that the colors are not muddied.
7. Invite students to share their art and talk about the process if time allows.
8. 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.
9. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
10. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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The goal of this kindergarten lesson was to draw a collection of hearts and other shapes and to paint the shapes different colors to create a cheerful abstract painting.



Painting from Life and Love series, 2017, Reginald Laurent

WA State Visual Art Standard

Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art-making. (VA:Cr2.1.K)

Our inspiration for this project came from the wonderfully colorful paintings of American artist and Georgia resident, Reginald Laurent. Laurent paints on canvas and other objects, including rolling pins and footballs, to create his unique collections of shapes in vibrant colors.

The students used a technique called watercolor resist to create their artwork. They started by drawing shapes using white oil pastel and then painted with watercolors on top of their drawings. Since oil and water do not mix well, using this technique leaves the white oil pastel mostly white even after applying the watercolor paint.

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