
Grade K LWSD Art Docent Project: Fall Foil Trees

Element of Art: Texture

Objective: To use foil balls as a painting tool to discover how changing the pressure of the ball creates different visual textures.

Artistic Influence: J.M.W. Turner



Element of Art: Texture

Materials:

- **White construction paper, 2 pieces per student**
- **Individual sheets of aluminum foil** (can be torn into 12 x 12 squares or buy the box of individual sheets)
- **Paper plates**
- **Paper towels**
- **Tempera paint in red, yellow, orange and brown**

Instructions and notes:

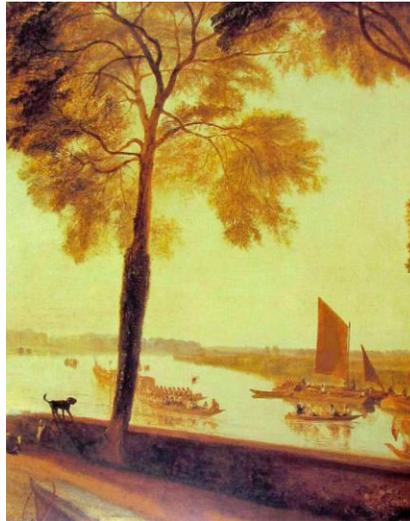
1. This lesson is great for Fall but by switching the colors used, it can be used for other seasons.
2. Study the paintings in the PowerPoint beforehand so you can bring some of your own insights and questions. It's a good idea to create your own sample of the art so you have experienced the process and know what to expect.
3. Briefly explain that the element of art students will be learning is Texture: "Texture depicts surface quality. Actual texture is how something feels. Visual texture is how something appears to feel."
4. Explain to the students that the light, airy feeling of Turner's paintings is what they will also be creating. How hard they press down the ball as they paint, will change the texture of the tree. Lightly pressing will create a light, airy feeling. More pressure will make the tree leaves look thick and dense. NOTE: Too much pressure too many times will make the tree look like one big blob and you won't see the individual leaves.
5. A fun part of this project is crumpling the ball so don't rush this part. Be sure they don't make the ball too tight or too small. The ball needs to be loose enough to provide the texture that will make the appearance of leaves on a tree. Have plenty of foil ready.
6. When you pour a bit of each color of paint onto the paper plates, make sure the paint is close together but not so close that the colors mix. The ball needs to be able to pick up a little of each color. Like this:



7. You can have the students make the tree trunk first and then add the tree top or vice versa. It's nice to do the tree top first and then add the trunk because the trunk can be short or tall and made to fit the tree top they created.
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 explore using a different tool to paint and learn the different textures that can be made when creating a tree.



Mortlake Terrace, the Seat of William Moffatt, Esq.,
A Summer's Evening, 1827, J.M.W. Turner (detail)

WA State Visual Arts Standard:

Identify safe and non-toxic art materials, tools, and equipment. (VA: Cr2.2.K)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned how texture can be depicted using a foil ball they made as a painting tool. They learned that visual texture is how something appears to feel and different pressure will make a different effect.

The inspiration for this project was the work of British painter, J.M.W. Turner, who brilliantly depicted light in his paintings using thick and thin layers of paint and a specific color palette true to nature. His techniques let nature stand out as the main feature.

Students created a painting tool out of foil, then added different amounts of paint and pressure to create an autumn tree.

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