

Expressing What's Important: Neo-Expressionist Explorations

Class/Grade Level

Kindergarten

Objectives

Students will be able to explore how colors can be used to communicate different meanings and emotions in art.

SWBAT identify and reflect on what is important to them, relating to their interests, families, communities, or cultures.

SWBAT apply oil pastels and tempera paint to create a unique and expressive artwork inspired by the principles of Neo-Expressionism.

SWBAT utilize and differentiate between closed and open shapes.

Big Idea

Personal Importance

Key Vocabulary

Importance

Closed Shape

Open Shape

Color Meaning

Neo-Expressionism

Featured Artist(s)/Movement(s)

Jean-Michel Basquiat, Neo-Expressionism

Materials Needed:

Watercolor paper

Tempera paint

Oil pastels



Lesson Summary

In this two-day lesson, students will explore how colors convey emotions and meanings, inspired by Neo-Expressionism and the work of Jean-Michel Basquiat. They will select five colors representing aspects of their lives, experiment with tempera paint, and create a personal figure or object using bold shapes, black oil pastels, and a symbolic crown. By incorporating both closed and open shapes into their designs, students will make thoughtful choices about structure and expression. The lesson concludes with a gallery walk, where students reflect on how color and shape convey personal significance in their classmates' artwork.

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Standards

11.5.2.Cn11

1.5.2.Re7a

1.5.2.Cr2

Accommodations & Extensions

Based on individual students' IEP/504 and individual students' needs.

Finished Early Activity: Guided Neo-Expressionist art exploration

Assessment:

Pre Assessment

- Class discussion

Formative Assessment

- Discussion
- Classroom circulation; continuous check-ins
- In-progress work

Summative Assessment

- Closure conversation
- Completed artwork

Learning Experience

Day One: Students begin with a discussion about how colors convey feelings and meanings, then watch a demonstration on safely using painting supplies and thoughtfully selecting colors. They return to their seats to gather materials and create artwork using five colors that represent important aspects of their lives, experimenting with mixing and blending techniques. The day ends with a discussion about Neo-Expressionism and Jean-Michel Basquiat's use of color and themes in his art.

Day Two: Students discuss Neo-Expressionism and Basquiat's use of bold colors and shapes, then brainstorm what is meaningful to them. After a demonstration on drawing crowns and figures using black oil pastels, they incorporate open and closed shapes and thoughtfully use color to enhance meaning. The lesson concludes with a gallery walk and a recap of key concepts.

