

Art Matters Lesson Plan

Art Play Lesson #4: Figuration and Abstraction

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Tools

Materials

Paint brushes (2-3/student) Water cup with water Table cloth or spare paper to cover work area	Rag or paper towel Watercolor paints/tray Black sharpie crayons
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Inspired by: [Cartoon Formalism exhibition at Albuquerque Museum](#)

Set Up

1. Cover your work area with spare paper or table cloth to protect your work surface
2. Set up work area with 2 sheets of paper, paints, water cup, brushes, rag and markers

Instructions

1. Part 1: Introductions
 - a. Take a deep breath. Relax your shoulders, your arms, your hands.
2. Part 2: WARM UP
Drawing Collaboration
 - a. Fold paper into 3 sections. Fold over so that only the top section is showing. Grab a crayon or a sharpie. Draw any shape and then within that shape draw a pattern. Make sure that it is an open shape so that the two

lines that make the opening can come down to the second (middle) panel. Draw for 2-5 minutes then fold over to the middle with two lines coming down and pass to the left.

b. Repeat this middle section as you've done in the top. Pass again, after everyone is ready and you've brought down two lines to the last section of the paper.

c. Open the drawings up, stand and walk around to see what your collaborations turned into. Say some things you like about the pieces!

3. Part 3.

- a. On a piece of paper, trace your hand at least twice or as many times as you want with a sharpie, so the lines intersect.
- b. Fill in spaces with patterns using crayons and sharpies.
- c. Paint with watercolor over the crayon and sharpie and in new places to create patterns.
- d. Work for 15-20 minutes on this piece.
- e. Stand in a circle with your finished piece facing away from yourself so others can see and notice what other people made. Do you see anything unexpected in your peers' work? What do you like about what they made? What do you like about your own piece?

Questions to Consider as you work

1. Where am I seeing negative and positive space as I work?
2. Consider the use of warm vs. cool colors and complementary colors (red-green, purple-yellow, blue-orange) and how they recede or stand out next to other colors.
3. If I rotate my paper, how does my piece change? Can I see something new?
4. How might the focal point shift as I add more color or patterns?

Clean Up

1. Be sure all markers are capped tightly, put them away. Make sure all crayons are put away nicely.
2. Rinse brushes, put away with bristles facing UP or back into bag.

3. Throw extra paint in pallets away and wipe out pallets with used paper towels. Stack clean pallets together for next time.
4. Keep your artwork! Even if you don't love it, it can be used later as book pages, cut or torn up for collage work, or shared with others.
4. Empty water containers, wipe up any spills in the work area, recycle or put away the table covers as appropriate.

Closing:

Take a deep breath. Use this activity anytime you want to play with art making, zone out, refocus ... it can be very calming.

Thank you for joining us to make art today!