

Art Matters Lesson Plan
Art Play Lesson #1: Color and Line Exploration
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Tools

Materials

Paint brushes (2-3/student) Water cup with water Rag or paper towel	Blank paper - two pieces per artist (watercolor or mixed media paper) Table cloth or spare paper to cover work area Watercolor paints/tray Black sharpie Optional: additional markers
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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: Play with paint
 - a. Take a deep breath. Relax your shoulders, your arms, your hands.
Remember to pause and do this periodically as you work.
 - b. Play with color and brush strokes, using different brushes, colors, adding water or not
 - c. Work until you have what you want on your paper, feel free to paint on your second paper as well.
2. Part 2: Mark making
 - a. Use black marker (or other markers of choice) to add lines and shapes to your painting

- b. Consider the colors and composition on your painted work - do you see a creature that you want to define with your marker marks? Do you see a section you'd like to fill with a pattern or design?
- c. Let go of any expectation of what you are making, draw and mark up your work. Periodically take a breath, rotate the paper, hold it up to change your perspective, then go back to marking it up as you are inspired.

Questions to Consider as you work

1. How does adding color affect my work
2. How does my piece change as I fill spaces with color
3. Am I breathing, taking a moment to pause and look at my work, and letting go of 'shoulds'?
4. How does my work change as I add marker? What is inspiring my marks?

Clean Up

1. Be sure all markers are capped tightly, put them away
2. Rinse brushes, put away with bristles facing UP
3. Keep your artwork! Even if you don't love it, it can be used later as a book pages, cut or torn up for collage work, 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. You may also want try this with colored markers instead of watercolor, try color pencil or crayon - notice how different materials interact differently.

Thank you for joining us to make art today!