



Palette Knife Painting

OVERVIEW

Students will learn about abstract art and create abstract art using palette knives, paint scrapers, and oil pastels.

STANDARDS

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What is Abstract Art?

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Engage in self-directed explorations
- Speculate about processes and purposes an artist used to create a work of art
- Use art vocabulary while creating art

STANDARDS

Art Education

Kindergarten

1. Engage in self-directed exploration and imaginative play with art material
3. Build skills by following a sequence of steps to create art that expresses feeling and ideas.
6. Share and talk about the art they are creating

First grade

2. Explore and experiment with a range of art

materials.

6. Use art vocabulary while creating art.

Second grade

3. Extend skills by individually following sequential steps to create works of art on subjects that are real or imaginary.
12. Interpret art by identifying the mood or feeling suggested by a work of art through subject matter and visual qualities.

Third Grade

3. Describe and use steps of the art-making process while creating works of art/design.
10. Speculate about processes and purposes an artist used to create a work of art.

Fourth grade

1. Individually brainstorm multiple approaches to an art problem.
3. Generate ideas and employ a variety of strategies and techniques to create a work of art/design.

Fifth Grade

3. Communicate personal ideas, images, and themes through artistic choices of media, technique, and subject matter.

Sixth Grade

3. Develop new ideas through open-ended experiments, using various materials, methods and approaches in creating works of art.

ART DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Abstract vs. Realism
- Can animals be artists?
- Abstract Art

ABOUT THE ARTIST

On February 3, 2005, the Wiregrass Museum of Art brought 64 first graders from Providence Christian School into the ring of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey's Hometown Edition Circus. These lucky students were given the special opportunity to witness the creation of an original work of art...but that is only part of the story. The artist was not a man, woman, or even a child but Gunther, a five-year old elephant with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. The production manager, Brian Newman, answered questions from the eager first graders before the main event. Gunther was then brought out and led to his canvas. Using his trunk to manipulate his own easel, brushes, and paints he creates not one but two paintings while students, teachers, parents, and museum staff looked on in amazement. After Gunther finished his painting demonstration, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus presented the Wiregrass Museum of Art with the painting now on display.

CURRICULUM CONTENT

LEARN ABOUT UNTITLED (ABSTRACT IN PRIMARY)

When asked how Gunther's handlers were able to teach the baby elephant to paint, Mr. Newman explained that they trained him much as a dog or any other household pet is trained. The Handlers look for a motion or action that is natural to the animal. For elephants, one of those natural actions involves picking things up with their trunk. Using positive reinforcement such as treats (animal crackers), and lots of love and patience. Gunther's handlers transferred the little elephant's action from branches to paintbrushes.



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ART INSTRUCTION

MATERIALS

watercolor paper, watercolor or acrylic paints, palette knives, oil pastels

1 INSTRUCTIONS

Before starting, explain to students that a little paint goes a long way.

- apply paint on to the back of palette knife
- Spread the paint onto the paper using the palette knife. Make sure that all of the paint applied to the palette knife has spread onto the paper
- repeat this step until desired

2 If the painting is too wet, allow the work to dry

3 Use oil pastels to add other details such as shapes, hash markings, or other organic shapes to the abstract painting.

4 Once students are finished drawing their desired shapes/lines, allow their beautiful work to completely dry.





TERMS

ABSTRACT ART- does not represent real things, but feelings. Artists use shapes and lines to display their emotions. It has color, lines, and shapes, but they are not meant to represent objects or living things Just as we do not know other people's thoughts, we do not always know what abstract art portrays but if you ask the artist, he or she can explain the painting to you.

PALETTE KNIFE- useful for applying clean patches of color onto blank canvas or over an existing dry layer of paint. The blade allows you to swipe a layer of color onto the canvas in a motion that recalls a baker smoothing frosting over a cake.

EXPAND

[LINK TO VIDEO GUIDES](#)



RESOURCES

Wiregrass Museum of Art