



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Oil Pastels (Ages 6-8)

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Materials Overview

- Oil pastel set (need at least red, yellow, blue, black and white)
- glue stick
- 2 paper towels or cotton rag
- Pack of multicolored construction paper
- White paper (5 sheets)
- cotton swabs (5)
- tsp of baby or vegetable oil
- Wooden skewer
- Scissors

Class 1

Welcome! Overview of class and materials.

Color and Pressure Play: On white paper, students will compare the color saturation of oil pastels through hard pressure vs soft pressure experimentation. This guided activity will first compare the basic primary colors. Second, pressure blending techniques will be shown, and students will be guided through the process of creating secondary colors by blending primary colors. Finally, we will experiment and play with stippling and cross hatching with a variety of color choices and end class with a small but beautiful rainbow.

Materials: white paper, oil pastels in red, yellow, blue, and white

Class 2:

Clarity vs. Confusion: On a piece of construction paper, students will begin by drawing any shape (except a circle) in the middle of the paper (could be a star, flower, octagon, triangle, square, heart, raindrop, leaf, etc). Next, we will firmly place a cup on the paper and outline it, multiple times, overlapping the circles each time and continue to do this until the paper is filled. Using blending and shading techniques from week 1, we will fill in all the subsections created by the overlapping. Students will be taught how to blend using a small amount of oil on the tip of a cotton swab.

Materials: oil pastels (all colors), cup (to trace), teaspoon of baby oil or vegetable oil, 5 cotton swabs, 1 paper towel or cotton rag, piece of construction paper (any color) or white paper

Class 3

Rainbow Scratch Art Mandala: The class begins with guided instruction to turn the rectangular sheet of paper into a square. Starting with a red circle in the middle and then “O-Y-G-B-P” to the outer edge of the paper. Next, students will completely cover the paper and the rainbow circle in black oil pastel. As a class, we will review pattern making and mandalas. Last, we will use shish-kabob sticks to scratch circular patterns. (Discuss North/South- East/West method of dividing circle into equal parts).

Materials: sheet of construction paper (any color), scissors, pastels in rainbow and must have black, shish-kabob stick (pointy end for scratching away oil pastel from the paper’s surface) _

Class 4

Leaf Me Be (Warm Vs Cool): After a short discussion of warm colors and cool colors, students will follow the guided instruction to render a lonely leaf in warm colors, on half a piece of a warm color sheet of paper. Then, on half a sheet of a cool color piece of paper, students will attempt to render the same drawing, except in cool colors. The pieces will be glued onto a larger, white or black piece of paper, like a diptych.

Materials: oil pastels (all colors), scissors, glue stick, warm color sheet of construction paper (red, orange or yellow), cool color sheet of construction paper (green, blue or purple), white or black piece of paper

Class 5

Still Life in a Glass Jar: Students will engage in a class discussion about signs of “life”. We will creatively draw and blend a colorful bouquet of flowers, paying special attention to contrast and negative space. For a finishing touch, we will create the beautiful illusion of light shining on a glass mason jar.

Materials: oil pastels (all colors, especially white), a dark sheet of construction paper (black, blue or purple)

Class 6

Watermelon Harvest: Just in time for summer, this celebration of the juiciest fruit under the sun will have everyone ready for a vacation. With a special focus on complementary colors and contrast, we will first draw a beautiful slice of watermelon in the center of the paper. The background will be filled with oval shapes. We will use many values of green to help create areas of depth, surface patterns and the illusion of roundness.

Materials: green sheet of construction paper, red, greens, white and black oil pastels, blending tools (oil and cotton swabs and paper towel or cotton ra

