Lesson Plan: Portraits

Grade Level: K-6

Duration: Six 45 minute class periods

Media Type: red, yellow, blue acrylic paint, white paper, black Sharpie marker

Subject Integration: Art History, Science


NA-VA-5-8.1, NA-VA-5-8.3, NA-VA-5-8.4, NA-VA-5-8.5, NA-VA-5-8.6

Objectives:

Students will create an abstract portrait after viewing and discussing several abstract portraits by famous artists.

Assessment:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of portraits, both realistic
and abstract. Students will create their own abstract portrait with acrylic paint.

(Website for help with writing rubrics)
http://rubistar.4teachers.org/

Rubric:
0- Little evidence shown of abstract portrait
1- Some attempt at abstract portrait, artwork not complete
2- Abstract portrait evident, geometric shapes created
3- Abstract portrait evident, geometric shapes created, facial features show balance and intentional placement, six paint colors used, background filled with triangles
4- Above, plus individual creativity, personality, and exceptional use of detail and application of all techniques clearly expressed

Materials and Procedure:

Drawing paper
Pencils
Sharpie markers, black
Tempera paint in primary colors: red, yellow, blue
Paint containers
Paintbrushes
Water containers

Sarah Brokke clip (3:10) The PlayList
http://www.youtube.com/user/ThePlaylistWDSE#p/u/203/21lz-GYiVno

Day 1:
Start lesson by showing PlayList clip of Sarah Brokke. Briefly discuss portraits and what the word means. Ask students what they know about portraits. Show students slides of abstract portraits by several different artists. Discuss. Ask students, "What do you see? What colors do you see? What was the artist trying to say? What is similar about the first two slides I showed? What differences do you see? Discuss the difference between abstract and realistic portraiture.

Day 2:
Have one student at a time volunteer to come to the front of the room for the rest of the class to draw for five minutes. Discuss proportion and placement. Discuss facial features and where they are located on the head / face. Show students how to fold a piece of paper so that the fold lines will act as a guide for placement. One student models at a time for five minutes while peers focus on drawing a realistic portrait of that student.
Day 3:
Briefly review definition of abstract portraiture. Review slides. Pass out paper and have students create their own rendition of an abstract portrait. Students must divide the space of the face and neck into geometric shapes.

Day 4:
Students use tempera paint to paint their portraits. Students will start with primary colors (red, yellow, blue) and will mix colors to create secondary colors (purple, orange, green).

Day 5:
Students continue painting.

Day 6:
Students use a Sharpie marker to trace the shapes of their portrait. Students will fill the background with triangle shapes to complete their portrait.

Vocabulary:
realistic, abstract, geometric, primary colors, secondary colors, proportion, placement, portrait, color mixing

Resources:
File of various abstract and realistic portraits for student viewing / discussion

Portraits [Hardcover]
Steve McCurry (Author)

In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits [Hardcover]
National Geographic Society (Author), Leah Bendavid Val (Editor), Sam Abell (Photographer), Chris Johns (Photographer), William Allard (Photographer)

Portrait Painting Atelier: Old Master Techniques and Contemporary Applications [Hardcover]
Suzanne Brooker (Author), Domenic Cretara (Foreword)

500 Self-Portraits [Paperback]
Julian Bell (Author)