



American Abstract Expressionism

Lesson Plan and Artwork by Edwin Leary, Art Consultant, Florida



Lesson Plan
Grades 7-12
Sax Lesson Plans, Art,
Social Studies
Jack Richeson

Description

This project deals with the infusion between Art History and Art Making through American Abstract Expressionism. American Abstract Expressionism is truly a U.S. movement that emphasizes the act of painting, inherent in the color, texture, action, style and the interaction of the artist. It may have been inspired by Hans Hofmann, Arshile Gorky and further developed by the convergence of such artists as Jackson Pollack, William DeKooning, Franz Kline, Mark Rothko and Wassily Kandinsky.

Objectives

Students can interactively apply an art movement to an art process-painting.

This art-infused activity strengthens their observation and awareness of a specific artist's expression.

Supplies Needed

Sax® Canvas Sheets, Cotton Duck, Primed/ea., 18"x24" Sax Trueflow Acrylics
403293

Bright Red
439235

Chrome Yellow
439241

Phthalo Blue
439247

Burnt Umber
439259

Mars Black
439262

Titanium Whit
439265

Trueflow Acrylics Fluorescent, set of 6 Quart
402434

Liquitex® Free-Style™ Brushes, 4-Set
1367756

Sax® Golden Taklon Acrylic Brushes, 6-Set
411600

Royal® Jumbo Brushes, 2" width, 4-Set
410850

Complete 5 Knife Set
408928

Shiva® Artist's Paintstik® Oil Color Sets, 12-Color
244689

Shiva® Artist's Paintstik® Oil Color Sets, 6-Color Set
440816

Standards

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

Content Standard #5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

Instructions

Teacher preparation:

Gather examples of artists that dominated this movement, display them in the Art Room with questions of: Who uses organic forms? Dripped and splashed work? Why the highly colored work of Kandinsky? Why the figurative aspects of DeKooning?

Step 1

Discuss the emotions, color and structure of the displayed artists' work.

Step 2

Discuss why American Abstract Expressionism is less about style than attitude.

Step 3

Discuss why these artists have such an attachment of self expression as found in their paintings yet not necessarily found in more academic work?

Step 4

Gather the materials and explain why the vivid colors of Fluorescent Acrylics were used, and what they do within a painting. The juxtaposition of primary colors can infuse into a secondary-tertiary color under certain applications.

Step 5

Apply canvas sheets to art work surfaces with masking tape. These sheets can easily be removed for drying and storage.

Step 6

Recreate the theme of an American Abstract Expressionist Artist.

Step 7

Using the larger brushes or painting knives, apply layering broad strokes, working from background to foreground, lighter colors to darker colors.

Step 8

Intuitively add additional paint application and always evaluate work as progress is being made.

Step 9

The use of the Platinum Acrylic adds a reflective tint to primary-secondary-tertiary colors. It can also produce results as an expressionistic medium alone. 10
Let paintings completely dry.

Step 10

Artist's Paintstik® can be applied as a final calligraphic element to outline, indicate movement or highlight a certain area.

Step 11

Do not apply Gloss Medium, Tempera Varnish, etc., as it tends to mask the brightness-effects of the Fluorescent or luminous qualities of the reflective Platinum Medium.

Step 12

Curate the painting with: Title, name and date.

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