

Unit: Color Theory and Acrylic Painting

Long-term Goal: The students will understand color theory as an integral portion of the principles and elements of design, and the students will become increasingly familiar with the acrylic medium.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Color Theory

Goal: The students will understand the basics of color theory by producing their own color wheel.

Instructional Objective: Given a blank color wheel, the students will use acrylic paint to accurately identify primary, secondary, intermediate and neutral colors.

Materials: Color wheel worksheet printed on heavy paper, brushes and acrylic paints.

Anticipatory Set:

1. I will ask the students to get a piece of paper and write down their favorite color. I will then ask them to write down an emotive word which matches their color. After a few students give examples of their colors and words, we will discuss why different colors evoke different feelings.
2. Using appropriate examples of masterworks, the class will be reminded of the element of design "color."
3. Depending upon the example(s) used, various discussions concerning color can occur, including, (but not limited to) color's impact upon space, mood, balance, emphasis, or rhythm, or the use of color families, contrasting or complimentary colors etc.
4. Leading questions will be used to spur an open discussion in which the students reflect upon color:
 - How does the color scheme in this painting make you feel?
 - How is color used to define the space in this piece? What colors are in the foreground (close to you) and what colors are in the background?
 - How is color used to emphasize the central focus of this piece?
5. After discussion, I will explain that we are beginning a unit on color, and to start we will be completing a color wheel using acrylic paint.

Instruction:

1. Using my own painted color wheel as an example, I will discuss the color wheel with the class at the front of the room. At the same time, the students will be given a handout which has six terms listed. They will be asked to write the definitions of these terms on their papers as I go over them at the board.