

## LESSON PLAN: Exploring Painting

By Amy Wunsch, November 2008

### Key Idea

Contemporary painting has moved away from its historic beginnings of documenting nature and recording reality in favor of exploring concepts and process. Many styles and aesthetic concerns now exist as painters explore and expand their use of painting media in a contemporary context.



### Objectives

1. Students will go on an instructor-led tour of several paintings in the Nerman Museum and JCCC campus collection that show unique uses of paint and creative processes, subject matter, and supports. We will see examples of scraping, mixing, dripping, brushstrokes, textures, layers, paint squeezed directly from the tube, and spray paint.
2. The instructor will lead a demonstration of several acrylic paint techniques students might try during their studio lesson: using the palette knife, diluting paint with water for washes, blending colors and values, sgraffito (scratching) using paint tools and brush handle tips, applying glazes using paint mixed with glaze medium, building impasto using gel medium or paste, applying paint directly from the tube, masking/stenciling using blue painter's tape over dried layers, applying paint with scraps of corrugated cardboard or bubble wrap, etc.
3. Students will create a painting (abstract design) on a primed, stretched canvas using acrylic paint and at least three painting processes. OPTIONS:
  - A. Students may begin with a wash layer prior to the tour.
  - B. Students may use black gesso to drip a pattern prior to tour; an additional Class Assistant volunteer will stay behind in the classroom during the tour and use a blow dryer to speed up the paint drying time for this layer.

### Vocabulary

Impasto: thickly layered paint

opaque: means that you are not able to see through it

transparent: means that you can easily see through it

sgraffito: technique when the top layer of paint is scratched to reveal surface underneath

### Assessment:

What inspired you to create this abstraction? Is it all imaginary, or is something natural included?

How did your use of painting techniques help you express ideas in your composition?

What was your biggest challenge in using acrylic paints today?

### Materials Used:

10" X 10" stretched canvases

Variety of colors of acrylic paints

Plastic buckets with diluted paint for washes  
(Option B: black gesso)

Gel gloss medium, glaze medium, paste, etc.

Various plastic palette knives (enough so that each student can try 2 different types)

A variety of paint brushes

Plastic palettes or paper plates

Blue painter's tape

Bubble wrap, corrugated cardboard, etc.

Cups of water for each student

Blow dryers

Newspaper sheets to place under works

Paper towels

### Tour artwork images:



**Joanne Greenbaum** (American, b. 1953)

*Untitled, 2013*

Oil, acrylic and ink on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2014.19

Gift of Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust



**Karin Davie** (Canadian American, b. 1965)

*Lover*, 1998

Oil on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2004.23

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation



**Jackie Saccoccio** (American, b. 1963)  
*Portrait (Genovese)*, 2013  
Oil and mica on linen  
Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2013.16  
Gift of Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust



**Angel Otero** (American, b. 1981)  
*10 Karat Still Life*, 2009  
Oil on linen  
Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2010.04  
Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation



**Keltie Ferris** (American, b. 1977)

*Maneaters*, 2009

Oil, spray paint, acrylic and oil pastel on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.61

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation in honor of Harrison Jedel, Kansas City, MO



**Eric Sall** (American, b. 1977)

*Teeth and Tentacles*, 2005

Oil on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2008.42

Gift of Dean E. Thompson, Overland Park, KS