

Early Explorations: Harmonious Hues

By Polly Blair, June 2018

Learn about color schemes in art and create a monochromatic painting.

Gathering Activity: On Thursday, we created watercolor “geode” paintings on paper. Today we will paint gold circles around the geode designs and knock off the salt, then cut them out and glue them to paper in a pattern collage.



READ What Colour is Your World? (2008) by Bob Gill.
Charcoal erase activity...talk about value scale.

Objectives: Using tempera in one color and variations mixed with white and black paint, students will create a monochromatic cityscape.

Prepare students for tour (review rules: no running, no touching art, stick together, etc.). Tour the museum and Regnier Center to focus in on monochromatic artworks.

Recap the artwork images we saw on the tour.

Talk about cities: what places have students seen in downtown Kansas City? (Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kauffman Center, River Market, etc.) What kinds of things happen in cities? (People work, they play, see events, etc.)

Demo mixing tints and shades. Students will paint stripes of color on a rectangular sheet of paper going from darkest to lightest (or lightest to darkest), exploring tints and shades. When students are done painting the stripes, they will create shapes into buildings and layer tints behind shades, creating a cityscape. Details include black outlines and yellow or white glowing windows.

Students will assist with clean up. End class with critique/group share.

Vocabulary: Monochromatic
value scale
tints (+ white)
shades (+ black)

Materials:

Large squares of heavy paper
Tempera paint (also black and white)
Brushes, water in cups, paper towels

Black tag board for mounting finished pieces
Black or white pre-cut mat frames

Tour props: color wheel, 5 purple samples for Jerald leans’ painting, dried paint with masking tape, photos of brown computer chip weaving and Marilou Schultz weaving at loom, image of another one of John Ferry’s city paintings, Angelina Gualdoni: bare canvas, dried red paint and green paint on unprimed canvas

John Ferry, *Kansas City*, 2014, Oil on linen, Donated to NMCA 2008 Beyond Bounds GLOW auction





Jerald leans (American, b. 1970)

Untitled Purple Landscape, 2000

Oil on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2008.49

Gift of James G. Sauers, St. Louis, MO



Keltie Ferris (American, b. 1977)

Man Eaters, 2009

Oil, spray paint, acrylic and oil pastel on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.61

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer, Los Angeles, CA, in honor of Harrison Jedel, Kansas City, MO



Wilbur Niewald (American, b. 1925)
Mountains II, 1961
Watercolor on paper
Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2006.04
Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer