

MONOCHROMATIC COMPOSITION

ART TECHNIQUE

Painting

AGE GROUP

Years 1 to 7

CONCEPT

Colour mixing

SESSIONS

2 sessions of 1 hour and 30 minutes each

MATERIALS

- 1 x A3 piece of cartridge paper per student (for their painting)
- 1 x A4 piece cartridge paper per student (for recording their shades and tints)
- 1 roll of sandwich paper cut to A4 size or several pieces of scrap paper for mixing paint in Session 1 and Session 2 if required
- **Chroma 2** paint: cool blue, cool red or dark green depending on the colours chosen for the project, plus black and white
- 1 medium paintbrush #6 per student
- 1 small paint brush #3 per student
- 1 piece of rag per student to wipe the brushes
- 6 or 8 plastic containers for water, (ice cream containers are ideal), 2 per group
- 6 or 8 plastic ice cube trays for paint, 2 per group
- 1 roll of cling wrap to cover the paint trays
- 1 old oversized t-shirt per student to protect their uniforms.

NOTES

A list of recyclable materials and equipment can be sent home asking parents to send things such as:

- a paint shirt with sleeves cut off, plus extra old t-shirts to cut up for rags and a bunch of small newspapers to cover the tables
- ice cream containers and old ice cube trays.

Carefully organise the list to avoid having too many containers, or too many newspapers.

This project has been design to suit normal classroom conditions and illustrates how the classroom can be adapted to create working space required.



PAINTING A MONOCHROMATIC COMPOSITION

This project has been designed to suit normal classroom conditions and illustrates how to adapt the classroom to create the working space required.

By the time children start primary school most of them are ready to extend their learning about art.

Colour is very exciting for young children and this project offers them the opportunity to explore and experiment with colour.

This project is about how to paint a composition using just one principal colour plus black and white, and how that one colour changes by adding black or white to it.

OBJECTIVE

- To provide students with practical experience in colour mixing
- To give students an understanding of colour and the idea that they can use one colour plus black or white to create different tones of the same colour.

ROOM SET-UP

To create a good working area and to facilitate sharing of paint and water containers, group the desks in fours or fives and cover with small newspaper pages (1).

Before you start showing visual references and demonstrate the procedure, make sure everything is in ready place.

Distribute the paint in ice cube trays and fill the ice-cream containers (2 or 3 per group of 6 students) with clean water. Give each student a small sized paint brush, a piece of rag to wipe the paint brushes, a piece of scrap paper for mixing the paint on (2) and A4 paper with a grid drawn on it for recording their shades and tints (3).

PROCEDURE

You will need either one or two sessions depending on the time available for each session and the age of your students – older ones probably need less time. If you need a second session, students will be required to re-mix their shades and tints before they can start outlining the composition in paint (5).

FIRST SESSION

VISUAL REFERENCES

The best sources of visual references are on the internet. Picasso's Blue Period paintings or Rose Period paintings are useful.

COLOUR MIXING

Allow the students to mix their own colours to enable them to understand the colour mixing process.

To create a shade, start with the original colour (blue in this example) and add black, first a bit and then increasing the amount, to create a range of different blues (3).

To create a tint, start with the original colour and add white to create different tints of blues from dark to very light. It doesn't matter how many shades or tints young children choose to mix, but it is important for them to understand how adding black or white changes a colour.

SECOND SESSION

COMPOSITION SET-UP

Set up a simple composition on a desk with only two or three objects placed onto a patterned or plain table cloth as shown in picture (4).

Talk to the students about the arrangement of the composition in front of them. Assist them to find how the objects relate to each other by asking the following questions. Which of the objects 'sits' in the front? Which of the objects 'sits' to the side? Which of the objects 'sits' at the back?



1. Room arrangement



2. Art material set up



3. Shades and tints



4. Sample composition set up



5. Outlining the composition using paint

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Raquel Redmond has more than 25 years extensive experience in researching, developing and teaching art programs aimed at primary school students and also conducts in-service programs for primary school teachers. She directed the Visual Art activities, Children's Art exhibitions and Artists in Residence programs for the 'Out of the Box' children's festival from 1992 to 2000. Since 1998 Raquel has been working with students at Queensland University of Technology School of Early Childhood's art studio. She is an active practising visual artist exhibiting her lino and wood cuts throughout Australia.

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DRAWING

To use the small paint brush as a drawing tool, add water to one colour of paint to make it thin and runny, so it can be used for drawing the composition (5).

Young children will draw the objects without overlapping them. It does not matter at this point as they will learn how to overlap objects as they develop.

PAINTING

Once the students have completed their colour mixing, they can apply paint in a loose and expressive way, using the medium sized paint brush – see examples at the beginning of this project and in the Student Gallery on the right.

CHROMA2 PAINT

1 set of 8 x 2L bottles of the 6 primary colours, plus black and white should be sufficient paint supply for a year, for a class of approximately 25 students.

Chroma 2 paint is suitable for other art techniques such as printmaking and is also designed to be used on textured surfaces such as clay, timber and fabrics.

RECOMMENDED COLOURS

cool blue
warm blue
cool yellow
warm yellow
cool red
warm red
black
white

STUDENT

gallery

