



Painted Stained-Glass Windows

Annemarie Baldauf

Being a restless, artist/art teacher, I needed a project to work on with my students to make teaching more than just a job. Doing art together is teaching art, while making art is also teaching art. I'm lucky to have administrators and staff who appreciate the hard work and colorful, shimmering results of creating a, painted stained-glass window in the artroom.

The artroom has twenty-four windows measuring in total about eight feet tall by twenty-four feet wide. When it's all done, it will look like one large stained-glass window. The first row was completed last year, and the bottom two rows and top row will be

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completed this year. The East Bay Community Foundation in Oakland, California has generously supported this art project with grants two years in a row.

Window Themes

When writing the grant, I had to come up with a theme for the windows.

We decided to base them on art history from the different ethnic groups represented at the school. This also matched one of the art standards in the California framework for the arts that is about teaching art history and learning about art from different cultures.

Looking at pictures from art history, drawing them, and recreating

them on the window and seeing them every day has been an effective way for students to learn about art history and art from different cultures. We now have six windows, one each for Latino art, African art, art from India, Egyptian art, Asian art, and Cycladic art.

Gathering Images

After purchasing materials online, the next step was for students to make the drawings for the windows. From the Internet, I printed pictures that represented the six categories. I put these images in plastic sleeves and made a binder that could be passed around. Students also used the computers in the artroom to find images.

Making Drawings

Each student in the six art classes was required to do one drawing for



Materials

- 1/16" and 1/8" lead strips
- lead and paint trimmers (razors)
- liquid lead
- window colors (assorted colors)
- leading blanks
- protective sealer

the window, but they could draw from any category. I asked for outline drawings without a lot of detail since the lines would be drawn over with 1/16" to 1/8" leading.

Adding Lead Lines

The final drawings were arranged on big sheets of paper cut to the size of each window. These sheets were taped to the outside of the windows. Luckily it didn't rain! Students then drew lead lines directly on the inside of the windows, tracing their drawings. The lead has an adhesive back so it sticks directly to the windows.

The pattern sheets were taken down after all the lead lines were complete. This took about a week per window. Spaces where the lead didn't meet were filled in with the liquid lead, just like soldering in real stained-glass windows. The background was broken up with lead lines, again, like real stained glass. The

final step was adding the liquid color.

Each student got a chance to work on the windows and have a drawing on the window. The whole process took about six months to finish one row of windows.

We are now working on the three other rows of windows. This time around, we are doing the actual drawing, leading, and coloring on plastic leading blanks, then putting them on the window. We now mostly use the thinner lead, even though it is more expensive, as because it provides for much more detail. As a result, the detail of the second stage of these windows is more refined.

Though the artroom windows are just about complete, there are side windows next to them that we could do next year. Do the windows block the light? Not at all! The windows change depending on the time of day and whether it is cloudy or bright outside, or winter or summer. They

illuminate and inspire my students' artwork. ☺

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NATIONAL STANDARD

Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.

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www.plaidonline.com/apGG.asp

www.plaidcraftexpress.com/default.aspx?pc=120001

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