

Diversity Portraits

Sharman C. Kamen

Significant Problem

Students will create a portrait integrating values, color mixing, and contrast.

Motivation

Study the work of Chuck Close and view the video, *Chuck Close, A Portrait in Progress*.

Essential Concepts

1. Understanding distinctions of hue, value, contrast, shade, and tint.
2. Working with grid and transfer techniques.
3. Creating a portrait with realistic proportions.

Materials

9 x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) newsprint paper, carbon paper, 9 x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) watercolor paper, pencil, mirrors, ruler, 3-D paint pens, watercolor sets of sixteen colors, brushes, cups, paper towels

Guiding Practice

Fold newsprint paper into quarters. Observe the proportions of the face and individual features using a handheld mirror. Sketch features (eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair, neck, and shoulders) using the guidelines of the folded paper.

Transfer the completed portrait to watercolor paper using carbon paper. Use a 3-D paint pen to outline the transferred drawing. Let dry. Use a ruler to make a pencil grid of 1½" (4 cm) squares over the portrait, being careful to keep lines straight as they pass over the raised 3-D lines. Pencil lines should be drawn lightly to form the grid over the

entire head and shoulders. Select a different primary hue for paint in each of the following distinct areas: background, face and hair, and clothing.

Make a twelve-color wheel of primary and secondary colors and color value strips of seven values for each of the three primary colors, using a watercolor set of sixteen colors. Paint each square of the portrait with the values and the tints and shade of the primary colors selected for each area (face/hair, clothing, background). To create values, add black for shades and white (or dilute with water) for tints.



Student work, watercolor and 3-D paint

Assessing Learning

Reflection will address the following questions: How accurately did you mix the desired colors? Did you use all four techniques of color mixing to get different values of the three hues? Did you follow procedure for good watercolor technique and handling of brushes? 🌀

Sharman C. Kamen is an art teacher at Hempstead Elementary School in Spring Valley, New York.

NATIONAL STANDARD

Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas.