

W-O-W WATERCOLOR PAINTING

with Rick Tan

By exploring how the five components of wet on wet painting work in concert, we experience watercoloring as a living art that evolves through the grades and is pedagogically engaging. The five components are:

COLOR | expresses nature's mood | develops GRACE & HARMONY

CONTENT | represents forms of life | develops MORALITY & BELONGING

CONTROL | harmonizes water and the will | develops VALUE & ORDER

CHARACTER | invites personality | develops EXPLORATION & SELF-IDENTITY

COMMUNION | engages the world | develops PERSPECTIVE & PURPOSE

These five are present in every painting. By emphasizing one over the others as the focus or skill, and by modulating the concerted expression of each, you will have an infinite number of painting lessons for the children. They are listed above in an approximate order of development through the grades. For example, a lower grades student will learn about color much earlier than will they understand the concept of communion.

So with every painting lesson, create a mental rating or rubric of each component. What will you emphasize as the underlying concept or technical skill? How does the painting correlate with the curriculum? What is your pedagogical reasoning? For yourself, you can create a 1-5 scale (1 being highest in emphasis).

Add to this the technical skills that you will mostly use in wet on wet painting:

PIGMENT INTENSITY | more paint or more water

BRUSH STROKE | movement, wide or thin line

CONTRAST | lifting off or putting on

PERSPECTIVE | background, middleground, and foreground

BLEND | mixing and combining colors

Lastly, break down the painting into teachable parts. Decide what color is to be applied first, and where it will go. What steps will you take to help the students progress successfully through the painting? Will you share a story first, or describe and narrate as you go? Preparing with a mental plan is very helpful.

Now, you have a veritable palette of painting tricks to WOW your class with!

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STILL LIFE

COLOR | 3
CONTENT | 4
CONTROL | 5
CHARACTER | 1
COMMUNION | 2

CURRICULUM | botany

BRUSH STROKE
CONTRAST



STONEHENGE

COLOR | 5
CONTENT | 3
CONTROL | 1
CHARACTER | 4
COMMUNION | 2

CURRICULUM | ancient history

PIGMENT INTENSITY
BLEND



HEARTLAND

COLOR | 1
CONTENT | 4
CONTROL | 3
CHARACTER | 2
COMMUNION | 5

CURRICULUM | native american studies

PERSPECTIVE
CONTRAST

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