

LESSON 8 OF 10

Acrylic Fruit Studies

by Debi West

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

High-school "Art 1" students will ...

- learn different painting techniques using acrylic paint, from dry brush, to water, to impasto painting, using the same subject matter study.
- learn to mix secondary colors from primary colors.
- learn to mix tints and shades.
- mount these onto a board to create a painted study series.

MATERIALS

- 6" x 6" white cardboard
- Acrylic paint (blue, yellow, red, white)
- Paintbrushes, water cups
- Spackle
- Glue
- Black poster board (cut to size)

PROCEDURES

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing the importance of looking closely at a subject matter.
2. Students will learn to paint a piece of fruit, by looking at it closely and mixing their primary acrylic to create their palette.
3. Students will begin this with a dry brush technique, using nothing but paint, brush and their "seeing" skills.
4. Students will begin their second painting by adding water to see how that changes the texture of the paint.

5. Students will begin their final study by adding spackle to their board and to their paint, creating an impasto artwork.
6. Students will glue each piece onto a large mat board, creating a painted fruit study.
7. Final artworks will be hung in a class display and critiqued. This lesson is wonderful in that students are very proud of what they created using only the primary colors and using their under-painting skills to create beautiful, quick-painted fruit studies.

ASSESSMENT

We do in-process critiques using my "2 Glows and a Grow" model: Each student selects a classmate's work that speaks to him/her and attaches three notes—two with what works, and one with what the artist might want to consider or change. There is also an evaluation form that prompts students to appropriately reflect on the learning at hand and provides space for them to comment on the process and how they feel their final piece turned out. There is also space for me to comment and give them a grade based on their learning and the final work.

For this particular lesson, I also have my students write a compare and contrast based on the textures, techniques, and elements.