LESSON 8

Claude Monet
Impressionism

Verbal Directions
LESSON OVERVIEW

Claude Monet (1840-1926) was an important leader in the impressionist movement, a groundbreaking style that used short broken brushstroke and unblended color to capture light instead of realism. Students will create their own impressionist art with torn bits of colored tape coming together to reveal a landscape or flowers.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Claude Monet and the Impressionists.
- Learn about color theory as it relates to the style of the impressionist.
- Learn about different painting styles.
- Create a collage in the impressionist style.

SUPPLIES

- Images of artwork by Monet.
- Samples of Impressionist tape paintings.
- Bristol or cardstock paper.
- Glue.
- Tape of different colors.
- Scissors.
- Pencils.
- Examples of simultaneous contrast and color theory.

CLAUDE MONET

Claude Monet (1840-1926) was a French painter most famously known for his important role as a leader of the impressionist movement. After an art exhibition in 1874, a critic called Monet's painting style “Impression,” since it was more interested in form and light than realism, and the term stuck. Monet's often painted the French countryside at different times of day capturing the colors and the light. Monet built a house for himself in Giverny, which included lily ponds that would become the subjects of his best-known paintings.
1. Introduce Impressionism and the work and life of Claude Monet. Contrast the work of the Impressionist with earlier landscape painting. Claude Monet and his contemporaries experimented with a new painting style that was not acceptable as art at the time. He and his friends at first were rejected from many art shows and galleries.

- Who decides what goes in a museum?
- Who decides what is ‘good’ art?

Impressionist used quick short brushstrokes of pure unblended color to capture the light in the landscape instead of details and realism.

- (compare with a pre-impressionist painting) How are these two painting styles different?
- Which paintings have the biggest range in value?
- Look at the shadow colors in the impressionist paintings, what do you see?
- Why do you think the impressionist chose to paint that way?
- How do you like to paint?

2. Discuss color theory and how it applies to the Impressionists paintings. Claude Monet used cool colors for the shadows and warm colors to show light. Often these colors were close in value. Our eyes perceive cool colors to go back in space and warm colors to come forward. Show examples of this concept by holding a blue paper next to a yellow paper. Using this principle the Impressionist created the illusion of three dimensional form.

3. Claude Monet was also interested in how our ‘eyes’ blend colors that are right next to each other. A stroke of blue and a stroke of red can be seen as violet. On a scrap piece of paper, have students experiment with making marks next to one another in blue and red. Talk about which colors students might need to make green, or brown, or orange.

4. Students will now create their own impressionist painting by using colored tape pieces. Use images of landscapes, or flowers to begin the artwork. Students first sketch out the landscape in pencil and then fill it with small tape pieces of different colors. Encourage students to think like the impressionist to build the image.

5. When the artwork is completed, reflect on the process of the impressionist and how they discovered a new way of representing their surroundings.
KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO VISUAL ARTS CORE CURRICULUM: Based on Utah State Visual Arts Core Curriculum Requirements (5th Grade).

Standard 5.V.C.2:
Experiment with and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

Standard 5.V.C.01:
Apply formal and conceptual vocabularies of art and design to view surroundings in new ways through art-making.

Standard 5.V.P.1:
Define the roles and responsibilities of a curator, and explain the skills and knowledge needed in preserving, maintaining, and presenting objects, artifacts, and artwork.

STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:
Engage & Persist: Learning to embrace problems of relevance within the art world and/or of personal importance, to develop focus conducive to working and persevering at tasks.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES
Click on links to learn more.
• http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/impressionism/lesson01.html
• https://www.cmonetgallery.com/lesson-plans.aspx
• https://www.britannica.com/biography/Claude-Monet
• http://www.impressionism.org/teachimpress/browse/aboutimpress.htm
• https://www.claude-monet.com/
• http://www.artyfactory.com/color_theory/color_theory_1.htm

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