



eva

ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

4

Wayne Thiebaud

Still Life

Verbal Directions

LESSON OVERVIEW

Wayne Thiebaud (1920 - 2021) is known for his unique and bright still life paintings of sweets. Students will learn about still life, color and painting as they create their own image of everyday food.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the life and influences of Wayne Thiebaud
- Explore different painting styles and color palettes
- Make art inspired by everyday life

SUPPLIES

- Pencils
- Brushes
- Puffy paints or chalk pastels
- Bristol or canvas board (for paint)
- Sweets for the still life
- Examples of Wayne Thiebaud's artwork

WAYNE THIEBAUD



Wayne Thiebaud (born 1920) is known for his unique and bright still life paintings of sweets. As a teenager he worked for a brief time as an animator for the Walt Disney studios. He worked as a cartoonist and designer in California and New York. During a trip to New York he became influenced by the artist of his time, the abstract expressionists. He used the same thick paint to but chose to work realistically with his own subject and style. He began a series of very small paintings based on images of food displayed in windows. He developed a signature bold way of showing light and shadow, using thick paint, and bright pastel colors. His works are often classified as part of the American pop art movement, because he painted everyday foods. [Learn More](#)



LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce the students to Wayne Thiebaud and his art. Look first at the texture of the paintings (this is hard to see in photographs and it might be helpful to bring in an actual oil painting). And then take a closer look at his use of color:

- What colors do you notice that Wayne Thiebaud likes to use?
- What colors does he use in the shadow?
- What do you think it feels like to make these paintings?
- Why do you think he likes to paint pictures of food?

2. Bring in treats and put them on display (donuts, cupcakes, etc). First start with a practice sketch of food and explore drawing items in perspective. Talk about how and where to add shadows.

3. Demonstrate how to use materials for the final piece. Show students how to layer pastels or how to use paint, while talking about the color palette that Wayne Thiebaud used. Practice mixing colors with white to create tones and tints.

In color theory, a tint is a mixture of a color with white, which increases lightness, while a shade is a mixture with black, which increases darkness. Both processes affect the color mixture's saturation. A tone is produced either by mixing a color with gray, or by both tinting and shading.

4. Draw out sweets on a final piece of Bristol or a canvas board and add color with paint.

5. Remind students to mix tones and tints and to add shadows. Fill in the background with another simple tone.

Grade Differentiation: For the youngest classes use pastels and learn about pressure and layering on bristol paper. Older students can work smaller on canvas boards and experiment with textured paints. Bring out additional paint and brushes if needed to fill in the background.

EVA+: Look at other works by Wayne Thiebaud, like his landscapes and draw a street view using pastels.





KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:
Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (1st Grade).

VA:Cr3.1.1a

Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

VA:Cr1.2.1a:

Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.

VA:Cr2.1.1a

Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.berggruen.com/exhibitions/wayne-thiebaud2>
- <http://www.artnet.com/artists/wayne-thiebaud/>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/wayne-thiebaud-is-not-a-pop-artist-57060/>
- <https://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/Education/learning-resources/an-eye-for-art/AnEyeForArt-WayneThiebaud.pdf>
- <https://www.projectswithkids.com/chalk-pastel-techniques-for-beginners/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osazem7kQzI>

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