Drawing with Thread

(art + social studies)

Twentieth century art is the most versatile in history. It is the reflection of a world expanding in science, travel and an individual's interpretation of life. In the past people followed tradition.

"Drawing with Yarn" is an interpretation of work by Wassily Kandinski in 1913. Kandinski is called the first totally abstract artist. Free flowing water color and line suggests but does not define images.

Grade Levels 5-8

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Measure the Masa to 10-1/2" x 15-1/2" pieces (in half). Do not cut but tear on the edge of the ruler to get uneven edges. Edges will look like hand made paper. Each student needs one piece 10-1/2" x 15-1/2" for background with more torn paper pieces on top.
2. Have students tear the paper in the 10 sheet assortment into random forms approximately 4" x 5".
3. Cover a table with plastic. Place all six mixing trays on the plastic. NOTE: White trays are best for
mixing transparent watercolor. The plastic table cover will collect paint and mix with other papers as all torn paper is painted. Squeeze the three Blick Watercolors into the wells. Fill halfway to the top. Use one well for gold. Provide several water containers to clean brushes. Blick Liquid Watercolor is vibrant and handsome with the gold metallic applied over the top. Place the pieces on the background paper after painting.
4. After the paper dries, iron the paper to smooth the surface.
5. Lightly glue the pieces to the background. It does not have to be thick or on all of the back.

Materials:

Creativity Street Embroidery Floss
(63100-1009) share one set across classroom

Blick Liquid Watercolor,
Blue (00369-5005)
Red (00369-3005)
Yellow (00369-4005)
Gold Metallic (00369-9015), share one 8-oz bottle of each color across the classroom

Blick Multi Purpose Glue (23872-1066)
16-oz, share one bottle per class

Blick 12" Plastic Ruler (55403-1012)
need one per student

Japanese Paper 10-Sheet Assortment
(10420-0009) one per class

Masa Japanese Paper, (10409-1003)
1/2 sheet per student

Blick Student Watercolor Paper,
(10028-2158) one sheet per student

Blick Pointed Scholastic Round, size 5,
(05107-1005) 1 per student

Snippy Scissors, (57040-2009) pointed,
package of 12, need one per student

Round 10-Well Tray (03041-1010), 6 per class

Iron

Process, continued

6. Cut random lengths of yarn. Lay on watercolor in drawn line technique. Change as desired. Lightly add narrow applications of glue beneath
7. Mount finished pieces on Blick watercolor paper. Discuss the textures of the back of the papers used in this project.

Options

- Use cloth instead of paper in all processes including the watercolor on the cloth.

Resources

- Taschen Abstract Expressionism (70033-1032)
- Usborne Introduction to Modern Art (70053-1001)

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Watch the Lesson at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kN3xgzWS8AU

National Standards

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

5-8

Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks

9-12

Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8

Students analyze, describe and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art.

9-12

Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of works of art.