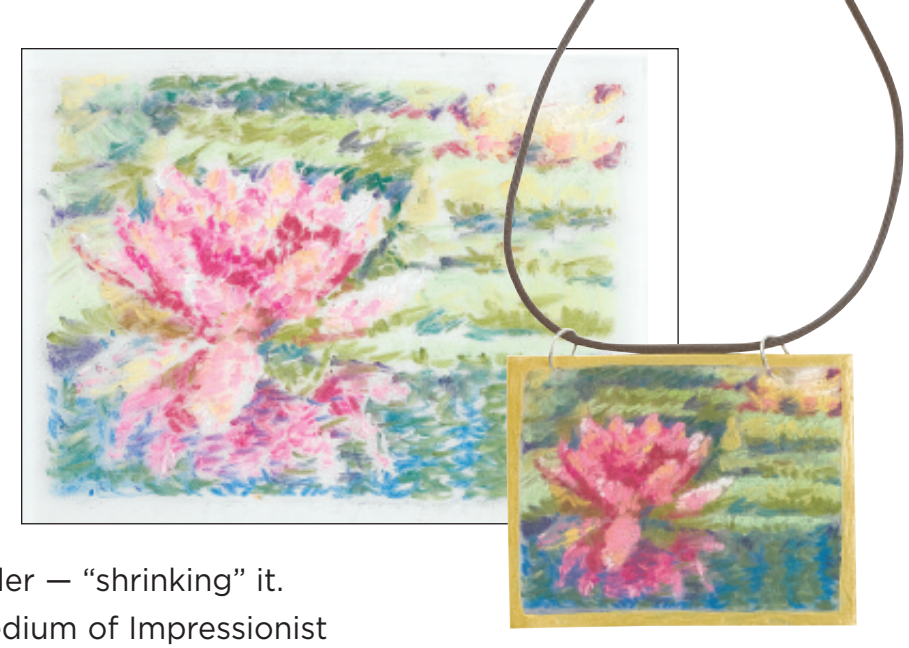
Mini “Monets”



Impressionist artists such as Claude Monet developed a way of painting that didn't blend colors together. They placed dabs of paint close to each other with short, choppy strokes. Close-up, the artwork looks blurry, but, stand back from the canvas and the colors appear to automatically mix and form new, amazing hues and shades. This effect is known as “optical blending” and can be achieved by placing distance between the viewer and the art or by making the painting grow smaller — “shrinking” it.

This project uses pastels — a favored medium of Impressionist artists — drawn onto matte surface Shrink Film. The chalk of the pastels doesn't actually shrink, it simply condenses along with the film to form rich, intense areas of color.

Grade Levels 3-7

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

Materials

Grafix® Shrink Film , Matte, 6 sheet pack (61412-2100), cut to 4-1/4″ x 5-1/2″ pieces for 12 per pack

Blick Pastels, Set of 24 Landscape Colors, (20016-0249), sticks may be divided, share between 10 students

Blick Masking Tape 3/4″ (23006-1000), distribute throughout class

Krylon Low Odor Clear Finish, Gloss (23710-1001),

OPTIONAL:

Amaco® Polymer Clay and Craft Oven (33900-1001) OR standard home oven

2 in 1 Combo Trimmer (56918-1001), 1 unit

Sargent Art® Metallic Acrylic Paint, Gold (00730-9015)

Paper Punch (58904-1005)

Key Ring, silver or gold (60695-1010)

Nylon Jewelry Cord (60616-1025)

Aleene’s “Tacky” Glue (23826-1005)

1″ Bar Pin (60691-2001)

Magnetic Button (61413-1006)

Preparation

1. Cut sheets of Shrink Film into fourths, size 4-1/4" x 5-1/2" pieces, using scissors or a tabletop cutter.
2. Have images of the same size (quarter-page) ready to draw. Use digital images, photos, color photocopies, ink-jet prints, etc. The impressionists were drawn to landscapes and florals, but any colorful image will work.

Process

1. Place a piece of scrap paper or a paper towel on work surface to catch the pastel dust. Use a pencil to lightly mark 1/8" around the film, then tape it over the image, down to the desktop, applying masking tape as evenly as possible. This will secure it to the desktop so it doesn't move while drawing and also creates a border that will make it easy to pick up and move after drawing.
2. Guided by the image, students will create drawings in the impressionist style, using the corner of the pastel and making short, rapid strokes. Every area of color should contain at least two colors of pastel placed side by side. For example, a sky might be drawn with both a light and a medium blue...with a few pink or yellow strokes added in places.

   The matte surface of the Shrink Film will allow the pastel to be applied in this manner, but, if students try to blend areas, the color will come off. This process insists on true impressionism!
3. Once drawings are completed, remove the tape and carry by the edges to stove or toaster oven. Detailed instructions for baking surface, temperature, time and more are included with the Shrink Film, please read carefully before baking. Bake time will be approximately 2 to 3 minutes at a temperature of 300° to 350°F. The pastel drawings will shrink to about 50% of their original size and twice their original thickness. If the edges curl, leave in the oven for another minute, do not attempt to manually flatten or the colors may smear.
4. When completely cooled, take the artwork to a well-ventilated location away from the stove and spray lightly with Krylon Clear Finish to protect the pastel. Allow to dry and apply a second, thicker coat. Once again, read cautionary labeling on the Krylon product and follow all instructions carefully.

Options:

1. After shrinking, paint a picture frame in the white border area around the artwork and on the sides. Use Sargent Art® Metallic Gold Acrylic Paint (00730-9015) or a medium-tip Sharpie® Paint Marker (22100-2020)
2. Prior to shrinking, use a paper punch (58904-1005) to create a hole. Shrink and attach to a keyring (60695-1010) or make a pendant by stringing on Linen Thread or Nylon Jewelry Cord (60616-1025).
3. Use Aleene's Tacky Glue on the back to attach a 1" bar pin (23826-1005) to make a brooch or a Magnetic Button (61413-1006) to make a magnet.

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard #5 — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

K-4 Students understand there are different responses to specific artworks

5-8 Students describe and compare a variety of individual responses to their own artworks and to artworks from various eras and cultures

Watch the Lesson at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPZg8ywth7c&feature=youtu.be