Durham Lesson Plan on Abstract Portraiture

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| **Title:**  Abstract Portraiture; Developing Artistic Individuality |
| **Stage 1: Desired Results** |
| **Understandings** |
|  **Objective:** * Through observing Amedeo Modigliani’s painting *Jean Cocteau*, students will understand how abstract portraits focus on the artist’s interpretation of the subject rather than a realistic rendering. Students will then apply this knowledge to their own abstract blind contour portrait of another student in the class, fostering their own artistic style by using the elements of art to further develop the portrait.
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| **Essential Questions** | **Knowledge & Skill** |
|  **Essential Questions:** * What is the difference between realistic and abstract art?
* What is a portrait and why do artists create them?
* How is the painting *Jean Cocteau* by Amedeo Modigliani abstract?
* What methods do artists use to show their individual styles?

**STANDARDS:****Grade 6** VA6MC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas. VA6MC.2 Identifies and works to solve visual problems through creative thinking, planning, and/or experimenting with art materials, tools and techniques. VA6MC.3 Interprets how artists communicate meaning in their work. VA6MC.4 Engages in dialogue about his or her artwork and the artwork of others VA6CU.2 Investigates and discovers personal relationship to community, culture, and the world through making and studying art. VA6PR.1 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes. VA6PR.2 Creates artwork reflecting a range of concepts, ideas, and subject matter. VA6PR.3 Incorporates an understanding of the language of art (elements and principles of design) to develop and organize own ideas, resolve specific visual arts problems, and create works of art. VA6AR.2 Critiques personal artworks as well as artwork of others using visual and verbal approaches. VA6PR.4 Plans and participates in appropriate exhibition(s) of artworks. **Grade 7** VA7MC.1 Identifies and works to solve problems through creative thinking, planning, and/or experimenting with art methods and materials. VA7MC.2 Identifies and works to solve problems through creative thinking, planning, and/or experimenting with art methods and materials. VA7MC.3 Interprets how artists create and communicate meaning in and through their work. 5 VA7MC.4 Participates in dialogue about his or her artwork and the artwork of others. VA7CU.1 Discovers how the creative process relates to art history. VA7PR.1 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes with care and craftsmanship. VA7PR.3 Uses the elements and principles of design along with a variety of media, techniques and skills to produce two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art VA7AR.2 Critiques personal artworks as well as artwork of others using visual the and verbal approaches. VA7C.1 Applies information from other disciplines to enhance the understanding and production of artworks. **Grade 8** VA8MC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas. VA8MC.3 Demonstrates how artists create and communicate meaning in artworks. VA8MC.4 Participates in aesthetic dialogue about his or her artwork and artwork of others. VA8PR.2 Creates artwork reflecting a range of concepts, ideas, subject matter. VA8AR.1 Critiques personal artworks as well as artwork of others using visual and verbal approaches. VA8C.1 Applies information from other disciplines to enhance the understanding and production of artworks. | ***What do I want students to know?*****Definitions:** * **Realistic:** Artwork that seeks to represent the subject matter how it appears in real-life
* **Abstract:** Artwork that that does not attempt to represent reality exactly but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures
* **Portrait:** A painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders
* **Blind Contour Drawing**: A method of drawing widely used by art teachers, where an artist draws the contour of a subject without looking at the paper
* **Foreground:** The part of a view that is nearest to the observer in a work of art
* **Background:** The area or scenery behind the main object in a work of art
* **Commission:** The hiring and payment for the creation of a piece, often on behalf of another

***What do I want students to be able to do?**** practice art safety
* define the above terms
* identify the characteristics of ARTWORK USING THE ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPALS OF DESIGN
* create an abstract portrait using blind contour drawing technique
* self-assess and peer-assess class work and projects
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| **Stage 2: Assessment Plan** |
| What evidence will be collected to determine whether or not the understandings have been developed, the knowledge and skill attained, and the state standards met? Create your common formative and summative assessments. What will you use? Exit tickets? Quiz? Ticket out the door? |
| **Performance Task Summary** | **Other Evidence, Summarized** |
| * **Performance Tasks**

Students will create a blind contour abstract portrait using watercolor as their medium.  | * **Writing Prompts**
* Capsule vocabulary
* Exit Tickets
* The title, a few words about who they are showing in their portrait, and which are the dominant elements of art they used to tell the story of their portrait.
* **Reading Strategies**
* Read the artist statements as you view your peers work
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|  | * **Materials:**

Watercolor paper 18” x 12” – one per student Copy Paper 8.5” x 11” – one sheet per student Pencil – one per student Sharpie – one per student (neutral color) Watercolor Paint – one set per student Paintbrush - one per student Cup of water – one per student Paper Towel – one per student to dry brush on/test colors Various line-making materials – accessible to all students |
| **Self-Assessments** | **Rubric Titles** |
| * Observational Checklists
* Class discussion, questioning
* Criteria list
* Power point reference
* Student Reflection
* Visual cues
* Exit tickets
* Step back Reflect
* Peer critique
* rubric
 | **Assessment:** Students will be assessed on their ability to: * + Describe and analyze an abstract portrait.
	+ Use the elements of art as symbols to show their portrait’s identity.
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| **Stage 3: Learning Activities** |
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| **Date** | **Activities/****Instructional Strategies** | **Resources and Technology** | **Literacy Connections** | **Differentiation and Specialized Instruction** |
| *DAY 1* | **Lesson:** Day 1: 1. Define realistic and abstract. (Slide 1 on PowerPoint) 2. Define portrait and explain why artists create portraits. (Slide 2) 3. Show the painting *Jean Cocteau* by Amedeo Modigliani, and ask students inference questions about the piece’s style and its subject. (Slide 3) 4. Compare the photo of Jean Cocteau with his portrait and explain why Modigliani painted him. (Slide 4) a. Quote by Jean Cocteau “It does not look like me, but it does look like Modigliani, which is better.” 5. Tell students they will be making their own abstracted portraits of the student sitting across from them. a. Just like Modigliani’s *Jean Cocteau* their portraits do not have to look exactly like the subject, the focus is on each student artist’s individual artistic style. 6. Explain what a blind contour drawing is, and show examples you have done. (Slide 5) 7. Emphasize to students that they only have two minutes to draw the whole face and shoulders, so focus on big shapes. (Slide 6 –Photo Examples) 8. Each student uses a pencil to draw their peer for two minutes on a regular piece of copy paper. 9. Once the time is up, have students critique their work and identify any visual problems a. Is the whole head on the page? Is it too small? Scrunched together? Can you see all the features? 10. Students draw a second blind contour portrait with Sharpie on the larger watercolor paper.  | * Power Point created by the High Museum of Art
* Lesson plan template from High Museum of Art
 | * Write vocabulary terms and notes in sketchbook
* Class critique on art from slides
 | * Formative assessment
* Seated by Learning styles (auditory, visual, kinesthetic, multiple intelligences)
* Portfolio
* Sketchbook preliminary sketches
* Preferential seating
* Verbal cues
* Go over all directions before handing out materials
* More complex activity (background, more than one person in portrait)
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| *DAY 2* | Day 2: 1. Students analyze their finished line drawing and fix any visual problems. 3 2. Students craft a new identity for their portrait, and develop their portrait further using the elements of art to reinforce their subject’s new identity. a. Who is this person? What do they do? What are they feeling? Why? b. Explain how different colors have different meanings. (Slide 7) i. Fill in shapes with watercolor. ii. Emphasize areas with thicker lines. c. Don’t forget about the role of the background to show emotion, too. 3. Have students sign and title their work based off the identity they chose. 4. Have each student present their piece to the class/write down: a. The title, a few words about who they are showing in their portrait, and which are the dominant elements of art they used to tell the story of their portrait. 5. Let students walk around the class and view all the different portraits. (Or hang on wall) 6. Discuss a few of the different artistic styles of students in the class. a. Which elements are shown here? b. What do you think this portrait says about this person?  | * Review power point
 | Answer questions on slide in sketchbook Students could write a story about the person in their portrait and then modify the art piece to fit their story, using similes to show symbolism. ORThe title, a few words about who they are showing in their portrait, and which are the dominant elements of art they used to tell the story of their portrait.  | * Seated by Learning styles (auditory, visual, kinesthetic, multiple intelligences)
* Portfolio
* Sketchbook preliminary sketches
* Preferential seating
* Verbal cues
* Go over all directions before handing out materials
* Teacher demonstration for visual learners
* Repeat directions throughout class
* More time
* More complex activity (background, more than one person in portrait)
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