Painting and Color Theory Vocabulary

Students may learn these vocabulary terms:

Tools and Materials:

ANALAGOUS COLORS
COLORS THAT ARE SIDE BY SIDE ON THE COLOR WHEEL AND HAVE A COMMON HUE.

COLOR
COLOR WHEEL, BLACK, WHITE, NEUTRAL GRAY TINTS, SHADES, TONES, HUE, INTENSITY - COLORS ON THE VISIBLE LIGHT SPECTRUM.

COLOR SCHEME
A GROUPING OF COLORS THAT ARE RELATED BY THEME, (I.E. WARM, COOL, COMPLEMENTARY.)

COOL COLORS
COLORS WITH COOL TONES TO THEM (I.E., BLUES, GREENS, BLUE-VIOLETS.)

MONOCHROMATIC
A COLOR THEME USING THE SHADES AND TONES OF ONE COLOR.

NEUTRAL COLORS
COLORS INCLUDING BROWNS, BLACKS, GRAYS, AND WHITES. ADDING SOME OF ITS COMPLEMENT TO IT CAN NEUTRALIZE A COLOR. FOR EXAMPLE GREEN ADDED TO RED.
**PRIMARY COLORS**
RED, YELLOW, BLUE.

**SECONDARY COLORS**
The colors you get when you mix two of the primary colors together: orange, purple and green.

**SHADE**
When black is added to a color.

**TERTIARY COLORS**
Colors that are made by mixing a secondary color with a primary color, (i.e., red violet, red orange, blue green.)

**TINT**
A light value of a color made by mixing the color with white.

**TRIAD**
Three colors equally spaced on the color wheel. (Red, yellow, and blue form a color triad as do orange, green, and purple).

**WARM COLORS**
Colors with warm tones to them (i.e., purples, reds, oranges, yellows.)

Processes and Techniques:
ACRYLIC
A SYNTHETIC PLASTIC BASED RESIN PAINT.

BRUSHES
TOOLS USED TO APPLY PAINT TO PAPER, CANVAS, BOARD, WOOD, OR CLAY. (SYNTHETIC BRUSHES: NYLON FILAMENT BRISTLES USED FOR ACRYLIC, NATURAL BRUSHES: FILAMENT BRISTLES FROM NATURAL HAIR USED FOR WATERMEDIA.)

GESSO
A WHITE MIXTURE OF CHALKY PIGMENT COMBINED WITH GLUE USED TO PREPARE A CANVAS FOR PAINTING.

GLOSS/GEL/MATTE MEDIUMS
A SUBSTANCE USED TO RETARD, THICKEN OR VARNISH PAINT AS A PROTECTANT OR HARDENER.

MIXED MEDIA
A PAINTING OR OTHER WORK OF ART IN WHICH MORE THAN ONE MEDIUM AND/OR MATERIAL IS USED.

MODELING PASTE
A THICKENER ADDED TO PAINT TO CREATE TEXTURE IN PAINTINGS.

PALETTE
AN OBJECT ON WHICH AN ARTIST MIXES PAINT
PALETTE KNIFE
A PLASTIC OR METAL KNIFE USED FOR APPLYING PAINT TO BUILD UP LAYERS ON A PAINTING SURFACE.

TEMPERA
A PAINTING MEDIUM IN WHICH PIGMENT IS MIXED WITH WATER.

WATERCOLOR
A PAINT COMPOSED OF WATER-SOLUBLE PIGMENT.

FIGURATIVE
PORTRAYING THE HUMAN OR ANIMAL FIGURE.

LANDSCAPE
A PAINTING OR DRAWING OF NATURAL SCENERY SUCH AS MOUNTAINS, LAKES, ETC.

PORTRAIT
A PAINTING OR WORK OF ART THAT INCLUDES THE FACE.

STILL LIFE
A PAINTING OR DRAWING OF INANIMATE OBJECTS.

BACK BLEEDS
AN EXISTING AREA OF DAMP COLOR, LAYERED WITH MORE PIGMENT AND WATER.

BLENDED WET
WORKING WITH PRIMARILY DRY PAPER, THIS TECHNIQUE USES SMALL AREAS OF WET PORTIONS TO BLEND PIGMENT.
COLOR GLAZING
USING COLOR OVER COLOR TO IMPART TRANSPARENCY IN PAINTINGS.

DRY ON DRY
A PAINTING TECHNIQUE THAT USES UNDILUTED PAINT ON DRY PAPER.

DRY ON DAMP PAPER
A PAINTING TECHNIQUE THAT USES DRY PAINT ON DAMP PAPER.

DRY ON WET
A PAINTING TECHNIQUE THAT USES DRY PAINT ON WET PAPER.

GRADATED WASH
A WASH THAT IS LIGHT OR THIN IN AN AREA WHERE LITTLE COLOR HAS BEEN APPLIED, AND GRADUALLY BECOMES DARKER OR HEAVIER IN ANOTHER AREA, WHERE MORE COLOR HAS BEEN APPLIED.

WASH
A MIXTURE OF HALF WATER AND HALF PIGMENT APPLIED TO A PAINTING (FULL BODY: MORE PIGMENT THAN WATER; DRIZZLE WASH: SPRAYING PAPER THEN DRIZZLING PIGMENT OVER WATER; SPLATTER WASH: LIGHT DOTS OF COLOR.

WET ON WET
A PAINTING TECHNIQUE THAT USES WET PAINT ON WET PAPER.