

Unit 1 Major Project: Pencils or Pastels

Materials Needed:

- Pencils (varying hardness: 2H, HB, 2B, 4B)
- Oil pastels
- Drawing paper or canvas

Objective: Create a detailed and visually compelling artwork, exploring the contrast between realism and expressionism. Students can choose between working with pencils for a realistic approach or oil pastels which incorporates just a hint of expressionism.

Instructions:

Step 1: Theme Selection

Choose a subject that resonates with you. It could be a portrait (a pet, friend, family member), a still life arrangement, or a scene from nature.

Step 2: Realism with Pencils

For Pencil Option:

1. **Preliminary Sketch:** Begin with a detailed and accurate preliminary sketch of your chosen subject. Pay attention to proportions, details, and shading.
2. **Refinement:** Refine your sketch, aiming for the highest level of realism possible. Use the full range of pencils to capture fine details, textures, and nuances.
3. **Texture and Shading:** Focus on creating realistic textures and shading. Utilize the cross-hatching and blending techniques learned in the unit to achieve a lifelike representation.
4. **Accuracy Check:** Regularly step back and assess the accuracy of your drawing. Make any necessary adjustments to ensure a faithful representation of the subject.

Step 3: Expressionism with Oil Pastels

For Oil Pastel Option:

1. **Bold Strokes:** Begin by outlining your subject with bold and expressive strokes. Embrace the freedom of expressionism by allowing your lines to convey emotion and energy.
2. **Vibrant Colors:** Choose a vibrant and expressive color palette. Experiment with bold and unconventional color choices to convey mood and atmosphere.
3. **Abstract Elements:** Introduce abstract or exaggerated elements to your composition. This could include distorted proportions, imaginative backgrounds, or other elements that add a touch of expressionism.
4. **Texture and Layering:** Leverage the unique texture of oil pastels to create layers of color and texture. Explore how the medium can contribute to the overall expressive quality of your artwork.

Step 4: Class Presentation

Present your artwork to the class, discussing your creative choices, challenges, and the overall experience of exploring both realism and expressionism within the same theme. Engage in a class discussion about the diverse approaches taken by students and the impact of medium on artistic expression.