

# FLOWER IMPRESSIONS

## Purpose

- ❑ To introduce the Impressionist painters.
- ❑ To learn about optical mixing of color.
- ❑ To explore an inkblot method of applying paints to paper.
- ❑ To reinforce principles of balance, symmetry and repetition.

## Teacher Provides - per student

- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Pencils

## Docent Provides

- ❑ Water container
- ❑ Tempera paint: white, yellow, red, magenta, purple, green and blue.
- ❑ Art prints: "Vase of Flowers" by Monet  
"Monet Painting in His Garden at Argenteuil" by Renoir
- ❑ Examples of various stages of the lesson
- ❑ Examples of four color combinations
- ❑ Large paper plates
- ❑ 12" x 18" sulfite paper
- ❑ 8 1/2" x 11" white copy paper (for vase shape)
- ❑ 2" x 3" scrap paper for leaves (need approx. 5 per student)
- ❑ 4" x 5" scrap paper for flowers (need approx. 5 per student)
- ❑ Popsicle sticks for paint palettes
- ❑ Brushes for painting vase

## **Set up**

- Each student should have a pencil, scissors, brush, one large copy paper, small scrap pieces for blotting leaves.
- Display art prints and examples around room.
- Assistant docents should start preparing green, yellow and blue paint palettes (one between two students)

## **Talk about the Impressionists**

- Write Manet, Renoir, Degas, Cassatt, Morisot and Monet on board.
- Generally refers to a group of artists who painted in France from about 1860-1886 and had joint exhibitions of their work. Refer to names on board.
- Until about 1860, French painting was:
  - Imagined subject
  - Scenes from stories about ancient heroes and gods
  - Portrayed life in an idealized way, not realistic.
- Impressionists:
  - Tore down the walls that separated art from real life
  - Painted scenes from everyday, modern life
  - Tried to capture the exact impression the world made on their senses at a particular time and place
  - Broke down light reflecting on objects into small brush strokes of many colors. By doing this it brought new brilliance to colors seen from a distance.

## **Show Prints**

- Point out splotches of color. At a distance, the eye tends to combine small patches or brush strokes of different colors into a new color. This is called Optical mixing. Ex. Small patches of red and blue will blend to violet (purple)

## **Describe what the students will do today**

- Paint a vase of flowers in an impressionistic style with an inkblot technique. Show examples.

## **Draw Vase - Docent demonstrates - can draw on board too!**

- Have the students fold one piece of 8 1/2" x 11" paper in two (either direction ok). This determines shape and size of vase and direction of flowers!
- Draw half a vase on paper with middle of vase at fold. Docent demonstrates. Encourage large vases with sturdy bottoms!
- When they are pleased with a shape, cut it out and open up.
- Place cut vase about 2" up from bottom of their paper and trace around it with their pencil.

## **Prepare Palettes for flowers**

- While students are blotting their leaves (next demo) assistant docent can prepare flower color palettes. Do not distribute until after leaf clean-up!
- Vary the palettes: Magenta, White, Purple, blue **or** Yellow, Red, White
- Be sure there is a popsicle stick for each color on palettes.

## **Add Leaves - demonstrate first**

- Pass out paper plates with a tablespoon each of yellow, green and blue paint.
- Pass out paper towels and 2" pieces of blotting paper (scrap)
- Crease one of the scrap papers in half. With a **Popsicle stick** put a dab of green in the crease. Add some yellow and blue on top of the green.
- Fold the paper over the paint to make inkblot. Press the paint slightly with fingers to spread it into leaf shape. Open and press onto the paper. Press the entire paint area lightly and peel off slowly from one edge. Usually there is enough paint to reuse a paper more than once with out adding paint.
- Remind students not to mix the colors, let the folding and blotting mix it for them.
- Continue to print leaves. Make sure some are blotted over the edge of the vase. Fill the space, but remember flowers will also be printed.

### **NOTE:**

This is a good time to clean up and discard used scraps of paper and palettes.

Pass out 4 or 5 larger scrap blotting paper for flowers.

## Flowers

- Pallets should have popsicle sticks for each color.
- **Paint pallets should be same color per group of students.** Example: If six students are at a grouping of six desks then place two paper plate pallets down of the same colors. The next set of students will get a different set of colors. This way they will not be reaching over to get other colors.
- Proceed blotting flowers using same technique as leaves. However, using either larger scrap pieces or more paint to make a bigger blot. This can be controlled also by how far they push the paint with their fingers when blotting. Again, use 2-3 colors together if you like.
- Encourage them to fill the space and to check their compositions for balance.
- Accidental drips can be covered by flowers or leaves!

## Paint Vase

- Students can now paint their vases using a brush. Thin down the paint slightly by adding a few drops of water. This will help let their brush sweep across instead of being lumpy or dry brushed.
- They can mix a color for their vase or choose a different one in **contrast** to their flower colors. **Show color wheel-point out complimentary colors and mixing colors.**
- Ex. If flowers are in the warm tones (red, yellow and orange) then the vase color should be in the cool tones (blue, turquoise or purple).
- If student wants to set vase on a table they can draw a horizontal line and paint with a contrasting color.

## Stamens and Stems

- These details can be added last. Stamens should be a contrasting color to the flowers too. ADMIRE EACH OTHER'S EFFORTS! Can laminate to preserve them longer.