

Pop Art-inspired Painting with Watercolor Resist

Best for: grades 4-6

Description: learn to use crayons or oil pastels with watercolors to create a unique “resist” painting featuring various color families.

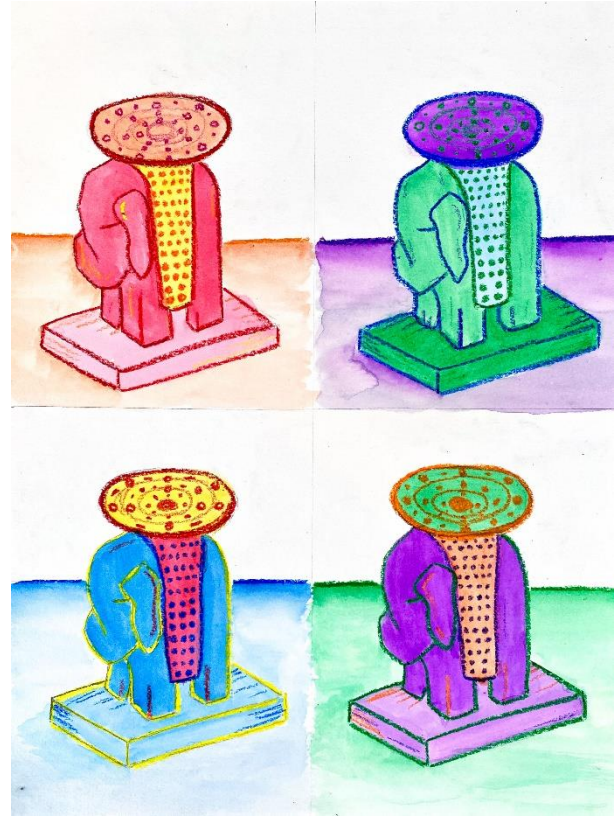
Vocabulary: warm colors, cool colors, primary colors, secondary colors, analogous colors, tints, quadrant, still-life, focal point, horizon, background, gradate, saturated

Required materials

- large watercolor (or thick) paper
- pencil
- ruler
- still-life object to draw
- crayons or oil pastels
- watercolor paints
- brush
- paint palette (or wax paper)
- water cup

Optional materials

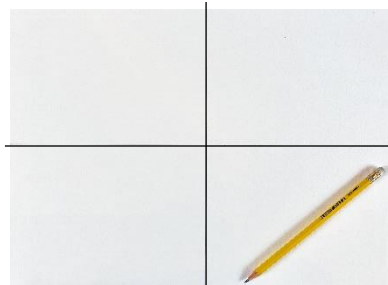
- colored pencils
- markers



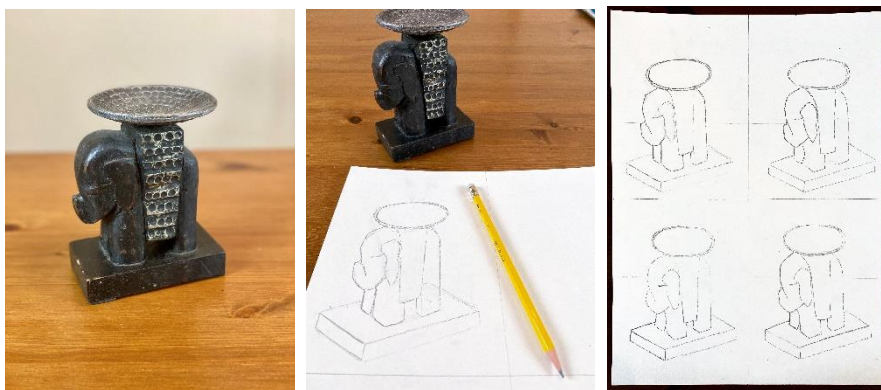
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Instructions

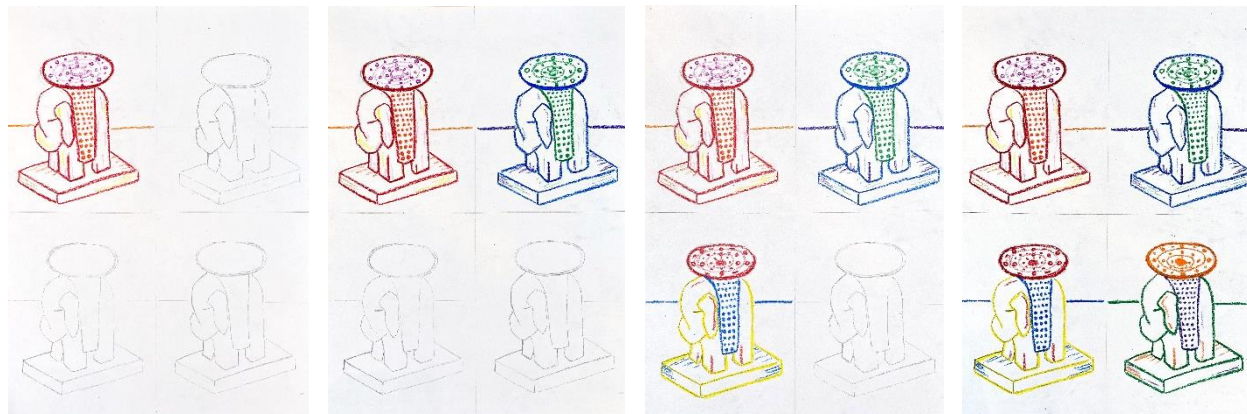
1. With a ruler, a straightedge from a large book or by folding the paper twice (first horizontally and then vertically) divide paper into four equal rectangles (**quadrants**).
2. Decide which **quadrants** (one of the four sections) will feature colors that are: **warm** or **cool**, **secondary** or **primary**, **complementary** (color wheel opposites) or **analogous** (color wheel neighbors).
3. Find a **still-life** object to feature as the **focal point**, or object of focus. Objects with simple shapes or lines work best. Study it closely, then softly draw it into **each** of the four **quadrants**. It will look like four mini-drawings of the same object. Draw a line in the **background** to represent the **horizon**, (the visual end of the surface.)



Helpful hint: draw very lightly to get the basic outline only. Soft lines are more easily covered with crayon / pastel. Be sure to look back frequently at the object so you can more accurately capture its shape or appearance.



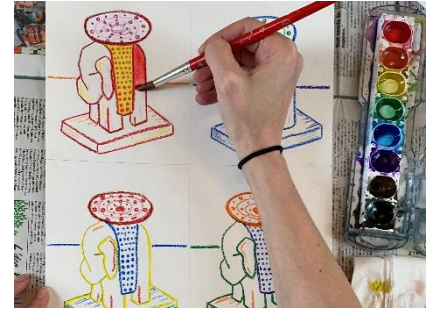
4. Next, switch to a crayon (or oil pastel) and trace over the pencil outlines. Only use crayon / pastel for outlines and for adding **texture** or details. Try not to color an entire shape in.



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Note: each **quadrant** is its own **color family**. Use reds or oranges for the warm quadrant. Include greens and blues for the cool quadrant, etc.

5. Prepare the table by placing scrap newspaper underneath the artwork. Paint each **quadrant**, based on color families (reds / oranges / yellows / pinks for **warm**; reds / yellows / blues for **primary**, etc.). Notice how the paint glides right over the lines! It **resists** the wax.



Helpful hint: the more water on your brush, the lighter your colors will be. Try creating different **tints**, or lighter versions of colors by experimenting with how much water is used. If you want extra bright colors, use less water (dab brush on napkin if needed) and swirl the brush vigorously in the paint. Sometimes, you may find that you need to dab your brush on a napkin before even painting.



Helpful hint: hold your paintbrush as you would a pencil, closer to the tip than the eraser, and keep your wrist loose.

Note: be sure to rinse your brush completely in the water before using any new color. If your water starts looking yucky, it is time to change it.



6. Continue painting until all quadrants have color. Remember, each quadrant is a different **color family**. Try experimenting with different color combinations within a color family.



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Optional: try to **graduate** or blend your colors by combining a wash (very damp, lighter color) with a more **saturated** area (rich with dryer color.)

7. Allow artwork to dry fully and then hang somewhere in the home to enjoy.



Extensions

For extra challenge:

1. Explore **tertiary** (part-primary + part-secondary) or **analogous** colors (colors next to each other on the color wheel).
2. Use opposite color families (such as both warm and cool colors) in one quadrant, creating dramatic contrast between the focal point and background.

For younger learners:

1. Divide paper into only two boxes with a hamburger fold. Focus on cool versus warm or primary versus secondary color choices. Practice close looking, and gross motor drawing / painting skills.



For a creative spin:

1. Divide your composition into 8 even sections and make a color wheel. Render your focal point in each box with unique yet sequential coloring.

Web Resources

[Pop Art—what is that?](#)

[Introduction to color theory](#)

[Experience an interactive color wheel online](#)

[Learn about Pop artist Andy Warhol](#)

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