

Introduction

Inspired by abstract artists such as Kandinsky and Mondrian, young artists are able to explore their own individual art style in this colorful self-portrait. By breaking down the background into shapes and patterns, artists practice filling the space with their entire composition. Adding student photos and personalized sentences allows viewers to learn more about each individual artist. These self-portraits will give your artists a sense of pride while also adding an explosion of personality to your school hallways. The lesson is easily adapted for different grade levels with a variety of materials. Explore what works best for your classroom and your creative artists.

Instructions

After students observe abstract art examples, they can use the colorful and simple shapes of influential abstract artists as an inspiration as they begin to create their own self-portraits. After students have been given directions for the first few steps and can work independently, interview each student individually with a few questions and take their photo. The answers will be used to create sentences that artists can glue on their work. Interview questions can be adapted to fit a character trait for your school, a class goal, an art show theme, or anything else. The possibilities are endless.

Step 1

Artists will draw a variety of lines from edge to edge of their paper with oil pastels. While practicing color mixing, artists will paint in each shape that has been created from the overlapping lines with a different color. No two same colors should touch, and the paper should be painted so there is no white space.

Step 2

After painting is complete, have artists practice different patterns in each shape with metallic and fluorescent tempera paint sticks and oil crayons. Artists can also practice writing their name as a pattern to add a sense of ownership to the art.

Step 3

Using lightened tempera paint, artists can splatter paint on top for a more abstract look or use a sponge to apply paint to their hands and add hand prints for even more layered details.





Step 4

Step 4

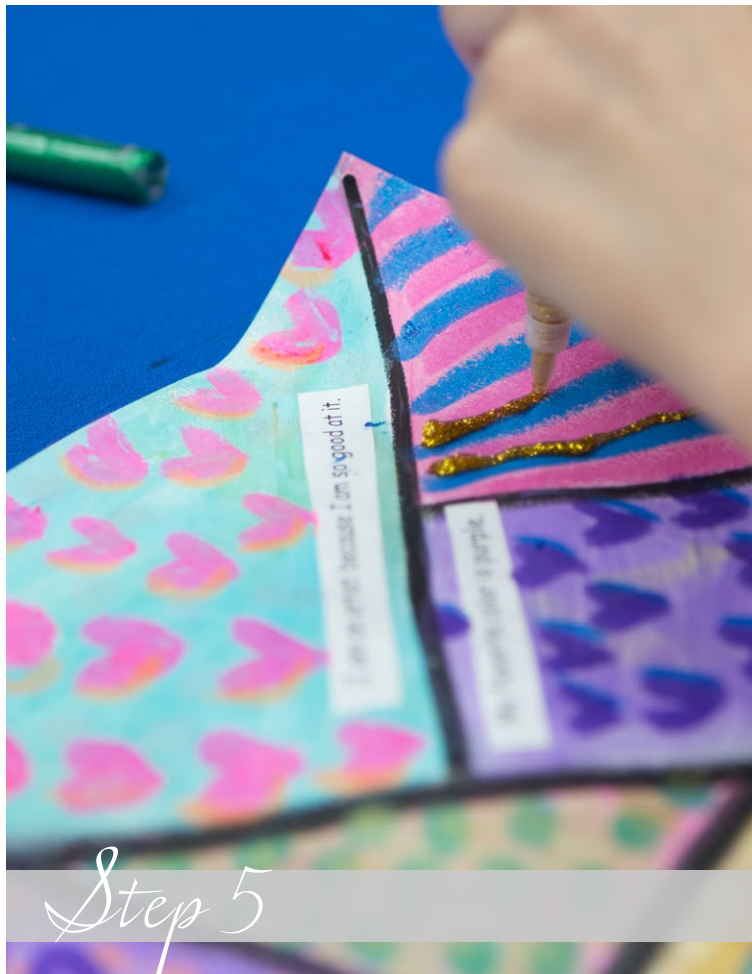
Have artists glue their self-portrait picture and sentences in an interesting composition to fill their space.

NOTE: If you are doing this lesson with a younger group of artists, you may want to pre-cut their printed pictures and sentences.

Step 5

Artists can add glitter glue details.

I am positive.
 I am creative.
 I am mindful.
 I am amazing.
 I am an artist.



Step 5

Sentences/interview questions

I am (student name) _____

I am an artist.

I like _____

I do not _____

I like the season of _____

because _____

I want to be _____

when I grow up.

I wish _____

I am amazing because _____

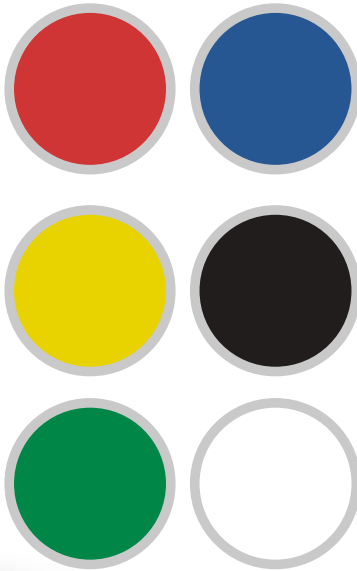
My favorite color/animal/food is _____

I am an artist because _____



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Order the **I Am an Artist Classroom Kit** (9742779) to get a copy of this lesson plan and enough supplies for 24 students.



Materials

- Nasco Tempera Paint, set of 6 pints (**NE20176**)
- Creativity Street® Glide-On Tempera Paint Sticks, fluorescent set of 6 (**9740976**)
- Creativity Street® Glide-On Tempera Paint Sticks, metallic set of 6 (**9740977**)
- Nasco Hexagonal Oil Pastels, set of 12 (**NE20074**)
- Glitter Glue Pens Classroom Pack (**9717376**)
- Nasco White All-Media Paper, 12" x 18" (**9728258**)
- Digital camera
- Computer and printer