

# MICHAEL DUNLAVEY

Watercolor Paintings

blue line arts

Grades  
3-4

## Tour Talk & Create

### Exhibition Background

Michael Dunlavey: Watercolor Paintings is an exhibition featuring local watercolor artist, Michael Dunlavey. This exhibition showcases his watercolor paintings that have various method, technique, and artistic ideas and elements within them. Before viewing the Watercolor Show, this worksheet will help you prepare your students with brief information on watercolors, relevant terminology, and the basic understanding of elements of art and principles of design. During the show, we will discuss the different technical methods and expressive content used in each watercolor piece and their relation to one another. Your students will then be able to use this information to create their own work of art during an instructional step by step video after viewing the gallery tour & discussion video.

This lesson plan features the following National Core Standards for Visual Arts for Grades 3-4: VA:Cn10.1, VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr2.1, VA:Cr3.1, VA:Pr6.1, VA:Re7.1, VA:Re7.2



Indirizzo 234  
by Michael Dunlavey

### Touring + Connecting

During the first part of the video, students will be able to watch a tour of the show to **see and respond** to a variety of watercolor paintings and identify several different artistic techniques and practices, hosted by one of our Teaching Artists. They will be able to evaluate the works through guided questions, such as **How does the use of different techniques create transparency or opacity?** Students will be encouraged to **perceive, analyze, and interpret** artworks firsthand before creating their own project inspired by the show.

### Talking + Responding

During the tour of the Michael Dunlavey: Watercolor Paintings exhibition, students will be encouraged to **brainstorm different ideas** and questions they may have about a work of art. The video will have moments of silent footage focused on each piece to allow for discussion among the class and can be paused at any time for longer discussion needs. Students can also use the paused time to **connect with one another to share ideas** and questions about the exhibit or about watercolors in general.

### Creating + Presenting

During the hands-on art making session video, students will **use the materials provided to explore different techniques** and styles of watercolor painting that they saw used in the Michael Dunlavey show to create their own expressive work of art. This video can also be paused at any time, while students follow along and create their paintings. This activity is curated and taught by one of our Teaching Artists and is tailored to the grade level of your class. Students will be able to **engage artistically with the ideas and art works** they have discussed and seen. This project will focus on the various techniques used in watercolors arts, as seen in the show, allowing students to create their own meaning through specific technique and method. After students have completed their art project, we encourage teachers to have students **present their work** to each other so that they can share what they enjoyed and learned about the creative process.

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LESSON PLAN

### Art Terms

### Art History

**Subject Matter:** The main content of a painting - what it is about.

**Technique:** An artist's way or method of doing something to create a work of art.

**Pigment:** The color of a paint.

**Transparency vs. Opacity:** The degree to which a color is see-through (transparent) or not (opaque).

Using less pigment and more water creates a more **transparent** look.

Using more pigment and less water creates a more **opaque** look.



#### Watercolor Techniques:

**Wash:** Using more water and less pigment to cover the surface of the paper in a wash.

**Dry Brush:** Using no water or very little water to pick up pigment and paint on top of a dry paper.

**Salt:** Sprinkling salt on still-wet watercolor painting and letting it dry.

**Crayon Resist:** Using a white crayon to draw images on paper before beginning to paint and then painting a wash over the top.

**Blot:** Using a wash to cover the paper in a transparent color, then using a papertowel to blot some areas of the painting, picking up the pigment.

**Plastic Wrap:** Using a wash to cover the paper in a transparent color, then laying some crumpled up plastic wrap on top and let dry. The plastic wrap is removed when dry.



#### *Resurrection*

Alma Woodsey Thomas  
1966

Watercolor artist Alma Woodsey Thomas used more pigment and less water to create **opaque** looks in her paintings. The darker colors can hardly be seen-through at all, while the lighter colors have a little more transparency and can be seen through.

### Questions to Consider

- What kinds of transparency and opacity can we see throughout the painting?
- What kinds of technique can you identify?
- Describe the subject matter. How does the use of different techniques help represent the subject matter?