

# MICHAEL DUNLAVEY

Watercolor Paintings

blue line arts

Grades  
7-8

## 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 7-8:

VA:Cn11.1, VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr1.2, VA:Cr2.3, VA:Pr4.1, VA:Re8.1



Vern's Truck  
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 do different artistic techniques relate to the symbolism/intent of the work?** 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

**Elements of Art:** The seven basic components of art: line, shape, form, space, texture, value, and color.

**Principles of Design:** The organization of elements of art: balance, contrast, dominance, emphasis, movement, repetition, rhythm, subordination, variation, unity.

**Atmosphere:** A mood or feeling in a painting created using color, tone, and depth.

**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.



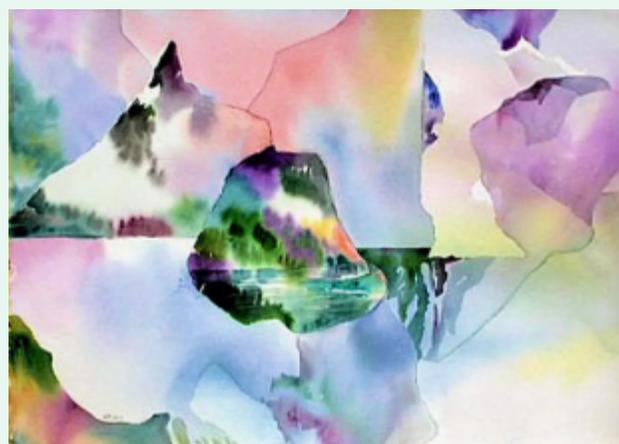
### Steps in Watercolor Painting

**Contour/Outline:** Some watercolor paintings begin with a soft contour using a light graphite pencil, outlining the subject matter before beginning to paint.

**Tonal Underpainting:** After outlining, an underpainting is applied using washes of pigment and water, often in broad strokes and with very little detail.

**Glazing (Overlaying wash):** Once dry, a glaze is applied on top of the underpainting. This overlaying wash usually contains the most detail and uses smaller, more defined brushes.

### Art History



*Dream*

Barbara Nechis

Watercolor artist, Barbara Nechis, uses different ratios of pigments and water to create varying degrees of opacity and transparency. The more transparent moments in her painting were likely done in the underpainting stage, while the more opaque moments in her painting might have been done in the glazing stage.

### Questions to Consider

- How are principles of design and elements of art used in this piece?
- How does the use of transparency and opaqueness relate to the subject matter?
- What techniques can be used to create an atmosphere in a painting?