

MICHAEL DUNLAVEY

Watercolor Paintings

blue line arts

Grades
9-12

Tour Talk & Create

Exhibition Background

Michael Dunlavey: Watercolor Paintings is an exhibition featuring work by local watercolor artist, Michael Dunlavey. This exhibition showcases various methods, techniques, elements of art. 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 9-12: VA:Cn10.1, VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr1.2, VA:Cr2.1, VA:Pr4.1, VA:Re7.1



Rooftops of Prague
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 can an artistic medium be used to convey specific intent and meaning?** 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.

Atmospheric Effect: A painting technique that creates a mood or feeling in a painting using color, tone, and depth.

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



Watercolor Tools

PAPER

Hot Pressed: a smooth surfaced paper, not very suitable for watercolor paintings with several layers and details.

Cold Pressed: a slightly textured paper, the most common used for watercolor paintings.

Rough: more heavily textured paper, creating texture and patterns in watercolor paintings.

BRUSHES

Soft Round: can create fine lines and details or broad strokes.

Soft Flat: used for filling spaces with a wash or creating geometric shapes.

PAINTS

Tubes: Tubes of liquid watercolor paint that are squeezed onto a palette and then mixed with water.

Pans: Pans of watercolor paint that are easily transported and mixed with water directly on the pan.

Art History



Nepenthes northiana
Marianne North
1876

During the 1500's, watercolor was used primarily for scientific purposes, documenting plants and animals with fine detailed botanical and wildlife illustrations. This method of scientific documentation continued on into the 19th century, with artists such as Marianne North.

Questions to Consider

- How are principles of design and elements of art used in this piece?
- Describe the use of atmospheric effect and its relationship to the content.
- How is transparency and opaqueness used in the image?