

Tempera: Colour Mixing Play

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

2 recycled cardboard cereal boxes per student
Chromatemp: Cool Red, Cool Yellow, Cool Blue, and White
Flat synthetic brush between ½" to 1"
Pencil and scissors
Stevenson or Rheotech Acrylic Gel

Goal and Procedure

In this project we will experience colour mixing in a loose manner. Let's see how many increments of colour can be made with tiny additions of colour while carefully retaining interesting brush strokes.

1. Open the cereal boxes flat and cut apart the front, back and side panels. We will be painting on the inside. (Don't worry if there is printing on the inside. Chromatemp is quite opaque. Any image or words peeking through will only help make the project that much more interesting to look at during critique).
2. Using a big, soft brush and only a little water, begin covering the surface with interesting brush strokes that mix and layer colours. This is a satisfying experience, but try to resist over-blending.

Secondary Colours: Warm

Red and yellow are examples of warm colours: think fire, sun, lava.
Mix yellow and red paint together to make a range of oranges.

Secondary Colours: Cool

Blues and greens are examples of cool colours.
Imagine water, cool green grass, dark green shadows.
Mix yellow and blue paint together to make different greens.

Complimentary Colours

Two bright colours from across the colour wheel will make a dull or subdued colour.

- a. Mix green and red to make browns and black.
- b. Mix purple and yellow to make ochre and grey. Purple is bossy. It will overpower the yellow. Use it wisely.

Tinting Colours

'Tint' means to lighten with white.

Start painting with a pure colour at the top of a strip of card, and gradually lighten it by adding white. Create a gradual progression from pure colour to white down the whole card.



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Project ideas for painted cardboard

Draw shapes with pencil and cut them out with scissors.

Glue them, using acrylic gel, to other recycled cardboard or to 4-ply railroad or Bristol board.



Fruit cut-outs - Junior High



Mosaic cat - Senior High



Geometric versus organic - Elementary



Positive versus negative – Elementary
Figure/ground ambiguity – Junior/Senior

The Cubist Collage

A popular style of still life or portrait

1. Can you imagine the sophisticated look of art created with a mixture of painted cardboard and found papers?
2. Would this style look interesting in a larger mural project? How can students' individual works be combined into a large composition?

Show us what you do with this project. Send us images and we'll celebrate your students' works on our website!



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