

# Tempera: Colour Mixing Still Life

by Kim Fjordbotten



## Materials

Recycled cardboard cereal boxes, 2 per student

Chromatemp:

Warm Red, Warm Yellow, Warm Blue,  
White and Black

Recycled gift cards, old credit cards

Black construction paper

Pencil and scissors

Stevenson or Rheotech acrylic gel

White or grey railroad or Bristol board, 2-ply or 4-ply

## Goal

This project is about colour mixing in a loose manner and encourages students to see how many increments of colour may be created using tiny additions of colour, while carefully retaining interesting brush strokes.



Photo for reference only. Create arrangements of vases or other simple objects in muted tones to students to study.

## Procedure

1. Open the cereal boxes flat. Cut off the side panels. Paint on the inside.
2. Put the five colours of tempera onto a palette. Students can scoop up a small amount of two or three colours and blend them by scraping them onto the cardboard. The result has a different look and feel than brushed paint.
3. Teachers can periodically point out interesting shapes, marks and serendipitous colour mixes.
4. While the cardboard is drying, students can draw and cut stencil shapes based on a simple still-life arrangement.
5. Using the cut-out as a viewing stencil, students can move the objects over the painted cardboard to find a pleasing and suitable area to crop from the painted cardboard.
6. Cut out the object and glue it onto a white or grey piece of railroad or Bristol board.
7. Tempera's matte surface will accept the use of pencil, charcoal or markers to add details and shading enhancements to finish the work.
8. Remember the mantra 'less is more'.