
1st Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Fun Self Portraits

Focus on Portraiture

Objective: to create a simple self-portrait in the style of Eng Gee Fan's illustrations

Artistic Influence: Malaysian artist and illustrator Eng Gee Fan



Materials:

- 9"x12" 90# white sulphite paper
- Watercolor pencils
- Medium round paint brushes
- 1 regular graphite pencil per student
- Paper towels
- Water cups

Instructions and notes:

1. This lesson requires some preparation: Page 3 of this document contains a template for the outline of the head and arms. Having the outline will help children get off to a good start with their portrait.
2. Print enough templates on 90-pound white sulphite paper for each child to have one, and also print a few extras in case any children grow frustrated and want to start over with a clean paper.
3. This lesson is designed for watercolor pencils, but if your art program does not have them available and cannot purchase them, you may adapt the lesson to use with tempera paint sticks or even traditional watercolor cake pans.
4. For the pencils themselves, Crayola brand or similar works just fine. They do not need to be professional quality pencils, but they do need to be watercolor pencils with "watercolor" or "aquarelle" printed on each pencil. Regular colored pencils will not blend with water.
5. Start students with nothing but their paper and a graphite pencil on their desks (no watercolor pencils yet).
6. Have the students do the initial drawing with you from Step 1 through Step 7.
7. Once all of the students have drawn their facial features, clothing and special object, have the students pause, let go of their pencils, and just watch Step 9 through Step 13. After they have understood what to do, then give them the watercolor pencils, perhaps 3 of each color per cluster of 4 or 5 desks (no water yet).
8. Some students may be skeptical that their pencils will work like watercolor. Assure them that they will. They can even use several colors together to create the color they want, because the colors do all blend together with the water and brush.
9. Once half of the students have finished coloring, have all students pause again and look at Step 14 together. Remind students of good brush skills, how to make an "X" shape in the bottom of their water cups gently and then tap on a paper towel to clean their brush between colors. Then give students a brush, paper towel and water cup.
10. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
11. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
12. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.



LWSD Art Docent Project: Mixed Media Pumpkins

The goal of this 1st grade lesson was to create a self-portrait in the style of digital artist and illustrator Eng Gee Fan.



WA State Visual Arts Standard

Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others.
(VA: Re7.1.5)

There were two primary objectives in this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents:

1. To create a simple and fun self-portrait.
2. To learn a two-step painting process by coloring with watercolor pencils and then painting with a wet brush.

Students learned that a **portrait** is a painting, photograph, sculpture, or other artistic representation of a person, which usually focuses on the person's face and head. Starting with an outline for guidance, they drew their facial features, clothes and an object representing something they love to do.

Watercolor pencils are a fun alternative to watercolor cake pans. Students are often impressed by how watercolor pencils behave when water is added to them.

