

Mid-project feedback – Painting

Name: _____

This project will be evaluated using four general criteria. To help you do your best, here is some feedback with suggestions about how to improve your painting. I have only chosen what I think are the most important pieces of advice for you. If these suggestions are unclear, please ask me or a friend to give you more help.

Quality of observation

- **Observe closely.** Keep looking at your photographs. Focus on the component lines, shapes, and colours.
- **Look for missing details.** Look for small things that you may have overlooked.
- **Measure carefully.** Use a grid, rulers, or slips of paper to guide sizes and locations.
- **Observe the shapes of your shadows.** Take a closer look at the shapes and sizes of the light & dark areas.
- **Consider changes in texture.** Try to capture the texture of the different things you are painting.

Quality of painting technique

- **Lighten your outlines.** Outlines should disappear in the final painting.
- **Darken your darks.** Doing so will increase the overall impact of your painting, and will help it pop.
- **Add tone to your lights.** Leaving areas white tends to leave the impression that your artwork is unfinished.
- **Work on careful brushwork.** Apply each brushstroke with care and thought.
- **Work on gradients.** You can make your paint blend smoothly from one colour to another.
- **Mix your colours more carefully.** Blend together three or more colours before painting with it.
- **Create textures with brushstrokes.** Use different techniques to show the nature of different materials.

Sense of depth

- **Use warm and cool colours.** Warm colours come forward, cool colours go backward.
- **Use high and low intensity colours.** Intense colours come forward, dull colours go into the distance.
- **Use high and low contrast.** Dramatic lights and darks are near but muddy colours are far away.
- **Use high and low detail.** Near things are sharp, but blurry things are in the distance.

Composition

- **Start painting your background.** It lacks substance in comparison to the rest of your painting.
- **Make sure your painting is non-central.** You may have to cut off one or more edges to make this work.
- **Make sure your painting is balanced.** One or more areas appear to be empty.
- **Make sure your colour scheme is clear.** Restrict your colour scheme so that your composition works.
- **You seem to be behind.** Please consider working on your project at lunch or before or after school. Or, try to pick up your pace or use your time more effectively during class. If you have enough done, you can ask if you can take it home to work on it. *Remember that if too much of your work is done outside school I cannot accept it.*