

Fish – Painting		
Teacher: Anna Gargiulo Grade Level: 9th - 12th	Enduring Idea: Exploring the Natural World through Art (Focus on Fish)	Time Allowance: 8 class periods
CONCEPTS AND OBJECTIVES		
KEY CONCEPTS addressed in this lesson: 1. Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals. 2. Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.		
LESSON SUMMARY: Students will explore the natural world through painting, focusing on the form, texture, and color of fish. Using a high-quality reference photo, students will create a fish painting with a triadic color scheme, incorporating brush techniques to depict shine and scale texture effectively. Students will be encouraged to interpret their subject matter creatively while maintaining technical focus on color theory and texture. Artwork examples used: Presentation Here Assessment: Self-Grading Sheet Art materials needed: Colored construction paper, acrylic or tempera paint, a variety of paintbrushes, pencils, and photo references of fish.		
NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR VISUAL ARTS		
List of standards addressed in this lesson		
1. ARTISTIC PROCESS: Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Enduring Understanding: Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals. Essential Question: Why do artists follow or break from established traditions? Grade Level: HS Proficient Performance Standard: VA:Cr1.2.1a Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art or design.		

2. ARTISTIC PROCESS: Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

Anchor Standard: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Enduring Understanding: Individual aesthetic and empathetic awareness developed through engagement with art can lead to understanding and appreciation of self, others, the natural world, and constructed environments.

Essential Question: How does learning about art impact how we perceive the world?

Grade Level: HS Accomplished

Performance Standard: VA:Re7.1.IIa Recognize and describe personal aesthetic and empathetic responses to the natural world and constructed environments.

ACTIVITIES

A.

- *Activity:* Introduction to the project.
- *Purpose:* To show students an array of fish painting examples and picture qualities that should be used for reference.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ARTMAKING ACTIVITIES

Day 1 – Introduction & Inspiration

- Overview of project, objectives, and expectations.
- Presentation: Famous fish paintings and effective use of triadic color schemes.
- Discuss high-quality references.
- Students select reference photos.

Day 2 – Sketching and Composition

- Light pencil sketches of fish on construction paper.
- Focus on proportion, shape, and placement.
- Emphasis on filling the space effectively and thoughtful composition.

Day 3 – Introduction to Triadic Color Schemes

- Mini-lesson on color theory: Triadic schemes (examples using primary and secondary sets).
- Share Resources on finding triadic schemes
- Students choose their triadic scheme and begin mixing colors.

Day 4 – Base Color Painting Begins

- Students apply the first layers of paint, blocking in main areas.

Day 5 – Layering and Texture: Scales & Shine

- Discuss different kinds of paints and the pros and cons of using them (acrylic vs. tempera vs. gouache)

- Students begin adding texture and layering mid-tones and highlights.

Day 6 – Detailing and Refinement

- Continue adding detail, fine-tuning edges, highlights, and shadows.
- Focus on contrast and definition.

Day 7 – Mid-Project Critique & Reflection

- Students present works-in-progress in a small-group peer critique session.
- Discuss composition, technique, and color choices.

Day 8 – Final Touches

- Students incorporate feedback and make final adjustments.
- Emphasis on polishing edges, final layer details, and unifying color areas.
- Students fill out self-graded sheets

ASSESSMENT

Objective 1: Students will create a painting of a fish from a high-quality photo using a triadic color scheme.

Objective 2: Students will experiment with brush techniques to communicate the texture and shine of fish scales.