

Chuck Close: Pixel Art
Art Docent
Third Grade

Materials:

White Cardstock 8.5 x 11"
Ruler (one per student)
Pencil
Oil Pastels

Elements Included:

Shape
Color
Texture

Principles Covered:

Pattern/Repetition
Rhythm
Balance

Present Slideshow

Demonstration:

1. Have the student use their rulers to create a grid on their paper. They will need to create evenly spaced lines so that there is a minimum of 8 boxes across and 11 down (so each square is 1") they can do more if they wish such as .5" each box creating 16 across (15 lines) and 22 boxes down). Tell the students that the smaller their boxes, the more detail they will get but less room for embellishing the squares.
2. Then have the students choose something to draw. It can be a heart for Valentine's Day or a Flower for spring, or their favorite animal or flower. Just keep it pretty simple. They can draw the outline over the grid so that the shape layers over the grid lines.
3. Demonstrate how to use the oil pastel to fill in the background with one color (like a warm color) and the shape of the heart or flower with another color (such as a cool color). They can also use whatever colors they like.
4. Then they can start to embellish the squares or pixels like Chuck Close with concentric squares or circles in varying shades of the pixel color.

Lesson:

Excuse the students back to their seats to work on their Pixel Paintings. Talk about what is a WARM color (more “fiery” on the spectrum) and COOL color (more “watery” on the spectrum). How does the grid create UNITY while the colors and shapes create VARIETY? Is it easy to tell what the shape is up close or farther away? Talk about how our eyes try to find the “whole” picture before we can separate the different smaller parts. What makes it easier to do that? The color shades being similar? The shapes being consistent in background and image?

Samples: