

Lesson 4: Self Portrait – Oil Pastel

Exploration

Grades: 6-12

Overview

Students will experiment with mixing oil pastels to mix secondary colors, tints, and shades using different techniques.

Materials and Tools

- Oil Pastels
- Paper

Objectives

Students will understand that:

- Oil pastels can be mixed, smudged, and layered to create dynamic effects.
- A secondary color is made by mixing two primary colors.
- A tint is made by mixing white with any color.
- A shade is made by mixing black with any color.

Students will be able to:

- Mix, smudge, and layer oil pastels.
- Mix secondary colors.
- Mix tints of colors.
- Mix shades of colors.

Activities

Oil Pastel Tips



It can be helpful to clean your oil pastels on a separate sheet of paper or paper towel before using it to mix a new color.

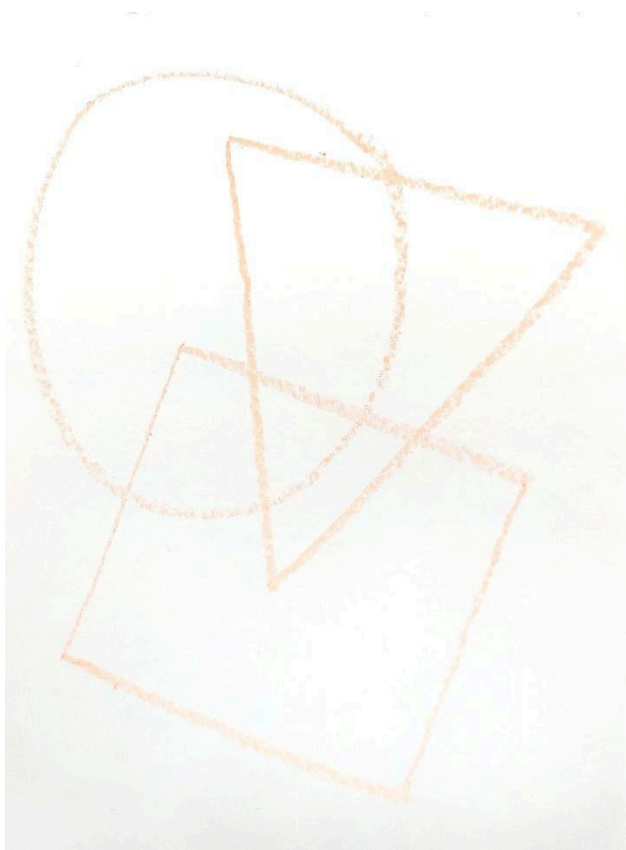
It can also be helpful to use specific fingers when smudging. This will keep unwanted colors from mixing on your page.

Engagement/Work Time

Step 1: Draw three 3-5 shapes.

Demonstrate: Fill your page by lightly drawing three overlapping shapes.

Show students how to correct a mistakenly drawn line by smudging it into the paper and drawing over it.



Step 2: Fill one shape with a primary color.

Use a primary color to fill in a section of a shape with varying amounts of pressure.

Ask: How does the color change when you press hard/light?



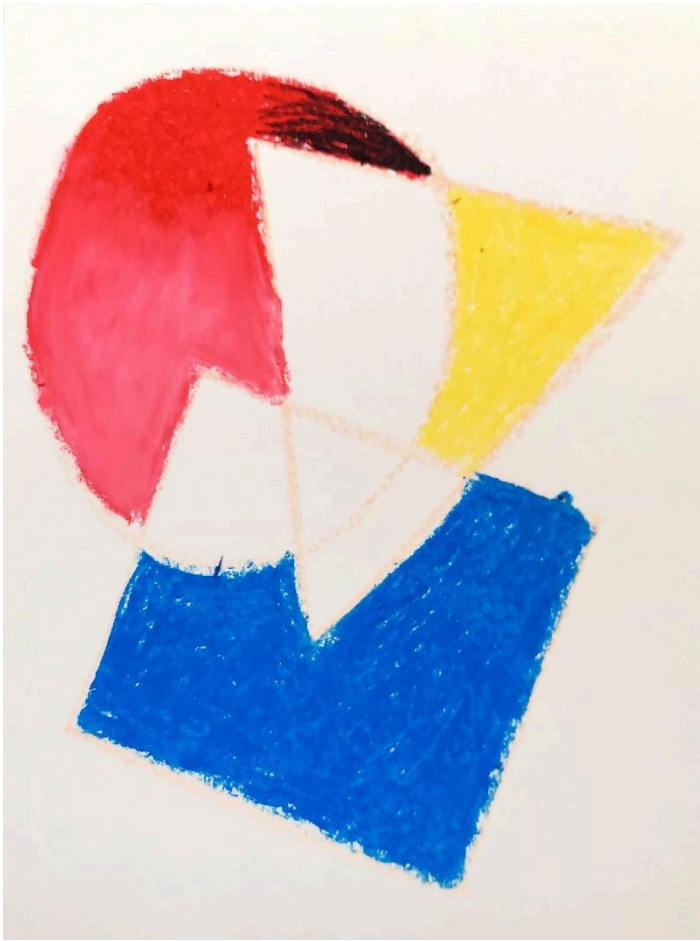
Step 3: Smudge and layer by creating tints and shades.

Mix a few tints and shades. Use a finger to show students the difference between smudging color with your finger vs. layering colors. Add black to a section of your shape to create a shade.

Ask: How does the smudged tint look different from the layered shade?

Step 4: Fill each shape with a primary color.

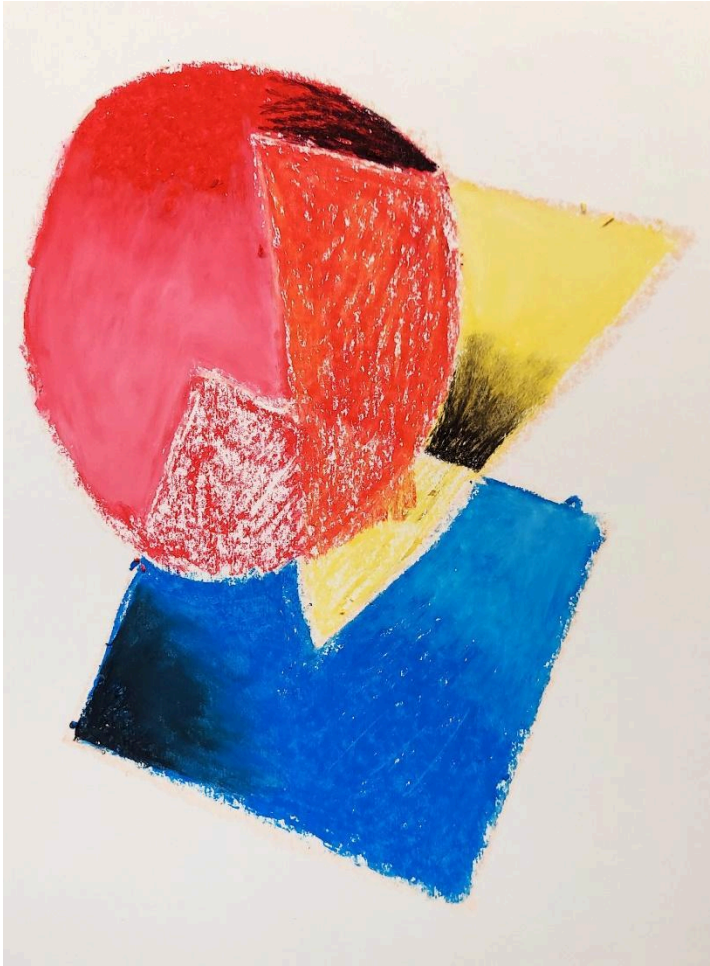
Fill a few sections of your shapes with primary colors, adding white and black to create tints and shades.



Step 5: Mix secondary colors.

Demonstrate combining secondary colors to make primary colors.

Ask: What color did I make when I mixed red and yellow together? Blue and red? Yellow and blue?



Step 6: Add Layers to mixed colors.

Demonstrate: Show students how to make their mixed colors rich and opaque by adding layers.

Ask: *How did the color change by adding more layers of oil pastel?*



Step 7: Finish your drawing.

Encourage students to finish the rest of their drawing by continuing to mix primary and secondary colors, tints, and shades while smudging and layering oil pastel.

Ask: *What's a new color you created?*

What colors did you combine to make it?



Reflection Questions for Discussion

- *What is a new technique you practiced today?*
- *What is a new color you mixed today?*

Vocabulary

Primary Colors: red, yellow and blue. These colors cannot be made from other colors.

Secondary Colors: green, purple and orange. These colors can be made by mixing pairs of the primary colors.

Tint: A tint is any color mixed with white.

Shade: A shade is any color mixed with black.

Mix: Oil Pastels colors can be combined to create new colors.

Smudge: Oil Pastels can be easily smeared and blended using your fingers.

Layer: Oil Pastels can be layered by putting one color directly on top of another.

Resources



Holly Coulis, *Cat as Universe, Mars*, 2023