


The Big Idea

Perspectives and stories can be shared through drawing and painting.

Acrylic painting by Aaron G. Prince of Wales Secondary, Grade 12

First Peoples Principle of Learning



Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story
Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.



Acrylic painting by Ellie X. Prince of Wales Secondary, Grade 12

The aboriginal peoples of this land have a reverent attitude to and connection with all other lifeforms especially animals. In fact, animals are often considered to be a people too, and are called names such as The Bear People, The Deer People, The Salmon People.

ANIMAL PORTRAITS

Graduation lesson

Submitted by Laurie Kidd
Retired Art Educator, SD#39

This project allowed grade 9 to 12 students to become competent in painting skills in order to express their feelings about animals. They researched famous artists and how they portrayed animals and could choose to emulate their style or develop their own.

Materials & Technologies

- sketchbooks
- 12" x 16" stretched canvas (from the dollar store)
- acrylic paint and brushes of various sizes

Pre-Class Preparation

Have students find an images of an animal they love – from a magazine or take a “selfie” of their pet at home.

Resources & References

- Bella and Don*, a short documentary about a portrait artist and a Chihuahua named Bella who is his muse: <http://bit.ly/2ocOuUS>
- magazines (especially *National Geographic*)
- library books
- internet.

Unit Lessons:

- Show *Bella & Don*, a short documentary from CBC. This was my inspiration for the unit. It is wonderful and lovely. You and your students will love it!
- Next: From Google Images go to Animal Painting Portraits. Show these and discuss various aspects including choice of colour and meaning.
- Have students draw animals they love (can be close up and/or whole body), from magazines, photos, the internet. Just draw them without thought of composition at this point. Just to get to know them. Can list their characteristics.
- Show famous artist animal paintings (Internet).

- Discuss colour, texture, composition, expression of feelings, etc..
- Show a video on composition, or give some explanation and examples, and have students take notes.
- Show more animal portraits and discuss the composition used in those images.
- Work on small Compositions (3) of their chosen animal. Choose one and add colour.
- Have them do a research assignment of famous painters. I had them do three and choose ones with different painting styles. Let them know that they can emulate/adapt/modify one of the painters' style of painting in their own animal portrait.
- Draw their chosen composition onto their canvas.
- Demonstrate underpainting (or show excellent demo on YouTube).
- Briefly review colour theory.
- Demonstrate blending and scumbling (or show demo on YouTube)
- My classes took about six classes to paint their portraits after the underpainting was completed.

Assessment/Evaluation

Self and Teacher Evaluation



Acrylic painting by Joy W., Prince of Wales Secondary, Grade 12

COMPETENCIES: What students will DO	CONTENT: What students will KNOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create artistic works as an individual using observation Engage in appropriate risk taking to express emotions Develop skills and techniques in a range of styles and movements Create artistic works to reflect personal voice and story Create personally meaningful artworks that demonstrate an understanding of context (e.g. personal, environmental...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acrylic painting materials, technologies, and processes the influence of personal context on artistic works a range of local, national, global, and inter-cultural artists and movements

