ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

LANGUAGE OF LINE — DREAM ANIMALS & OBJECTS

Expand one's imagination by creating combinations of objects.

LESSON:

❧ The tradition of combining different objects together to create something fantastic and unusual is not new. Many cultures have been doing this for centuries. Examples of this are seen in Greek mythology like **Pegasus**, the winged horse and the **Centaur** that was half man, half horse. This can be seen in Egyptian sculptures and monuments like the **Sphinx**. This object has the head of man and the body of reclining lion. One artist that always used fantasy as part of his art was **Salvatore Dali**.

❧ Today we still create in the same way. Think of transformers, often they begin as cars or trucks and become enormous robots and other fantastic creatures.

❧ Search imagination to combine the features of any 2 or 3 things. These things can be animals, humans, machines and/or flowers. Combine any items that tell the story.

ACTIVITY:

1. Take a few moments to think about the things of personal interest.

2. With pencil, pen or crayon start drawing those individual objects. Include as much detail as you wish on no less than 2 separate objects or animals.

3. Be sure to draw the items on separate sheets of paper so that they can be combined later.

4. Please remember that since items will be combined later, keep overall size of items similar.

LANGUAGE OF COLOR — DREAM ANIMALS & OBJECTS

Color assists in telling a story by sharing mood, emotion or temperature.

LESSON:

ᔛ **Explore use of color** as a tool to tell the story. Fantasy objects can inspire the use of color in any combination, these inspire the artist. Color always sets the mood.

ᔛ **Bright colors** like yellow are often viewed as happy. **Dark colors** such as black, are often viewed as serious or scary. Certain colors can be considered warm or even hot, like red and orange or cold like silver or blue.

ACTIVITY:

1. With drawings from the previous day, add color with use of markers or crayons.

2. Any new ideas may be added to the previous drawing or a new drawing may be created.

3. Color is important to convey ideas and information, so select the color of the object to assist in telling the story.

4. Once the drawings are complete, cut out the individual objects to reassemble into the fantasy object and then glue on to a new sheet of paper (paper can be any color).

5. Use of white paper provides a light background for the object where many bright colors may be added.

Caleb Age 8
Train Titanic

Iceberg

Train Titanic

floating rails↑

Cat
Bunnie
Giraffe
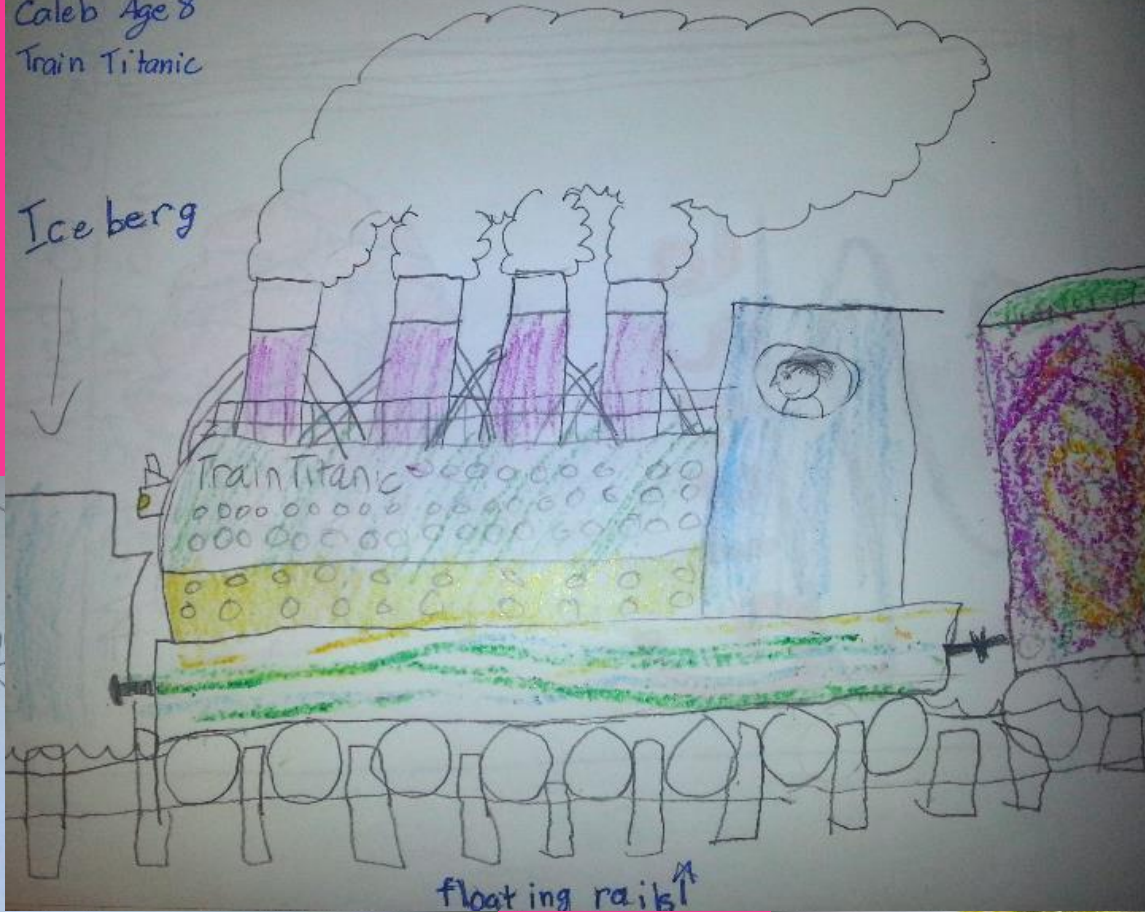
LANGUAGE OF TEXTURE — DREAM ANIMALS & OBJECTS

Through use of texture, details may be added to an artistic creation to complete the visual story.

LESSON:

Final **composition and assembly** of artwork showcases an artist's talent. This can be viewed as the finishing touches to any creation. Use of construction paper or even newspaper images adds interest to the finished product.

If the fantasy object is part snake, **add scales** with pen markings on the snake's body. If the fantasy object has tires **add markings** to look like tire tread.

ACTIVITY:

1. Using the creations from the previous day, begin to add additional information to the composition. This may be achieved through use of pencils and markers.

2. The background surrounding the fantasy creation can be added at this time. Other objects and color will complete the picture and provide the viewer with more information.

3. The use of construction paper can also give added detail along with dimension or texture.

4. Cut pieces of colored construction paper and add to the top of your drawing to show clouds, moon, stars or sun. Colored paper can be added at the bottom of your drawing to be a road, or cut evenly and repeatedly along the top edge to look like blades of grass.

LANGUAGE OF LINE — MOLAS

All cultures influence art in different ways. This can be seen in everyday items such as pottery, clothing, jewelry and furniture.

LESSON:

☞ **Molas** is an art form used by the Kuna, an indigenous people in Panama and Columbia. The **Molas** technique traces its roots back to body art. After visitation by Spanish missionaries, the Kuna transferred traditional geometric design on to fabric. First, by painting directly on fabric, and later by using the technique of reverse application. **(Reverse application** is a method of cutting shapes of fabric or paper in different colors and sizes, then stacking them on a surface.**)** Most recently, **Molas** has been used as part of traditional costumes for Kuna women. However, this technique can easily be applied to other materials and subject matter, like using colored construction paper and glue instead of fabric.

ACTIVITY: **Using the Molas technique, one can create a colorful image, with dimension and texture.**

1. Lightly draw the outer silhouette of a design (any object: person, place, thing or random shape) on construction paper. **DO NOT** draw details, just the outer edges of the object.

2. Be sure to center the drawing on the page and leave at least 2 inches around the image from the edges of the paper.

3. With scissors, cut along the drawn line of the design, creating a template/pattern.

4. With glue, attach the template to another sheet of construction paper. Paper color must be different than the original template. Again, be sure to center the design on the page.

5. Once again, cut around your template, ¼ inch away from the edges on all sides so new color will show.

6. The result will be the original image plus one additional color of the same image that is slightly larger.

LANGUAGE OF COLOR — MOLAS

Color and its usage reflect culture and traditions.

LESSON:

૭ Utilizing a brief revisit to primary/secondary or complementary, analogous, monochromatic or shades and tints, proceed to repeat **Step 4** from previous lesson by adding several layers to the Molas design.

૭ When cut, each additional layer will gradually be bigger than the previous layer. The goal is to create 4 or more layers of any color scheme.

ACTIVITY:

1. The color of the construction paper used for the additional layers can match any one of the color schemes **(younger children will likely have better comprehension with the more basic color schemes). Sample color schemes can be shown for reference.**

2. Return to **Step 4** from previous lesson and add several additional layers to the Molas design. Each additional layer, when cut, should be slightly larger than the of previous color. The goal is to have 4 or more layers of color to demonstrate the desired color scheme.

3. For ease of cutting, pencil guide lines can be used to lightly trace around the design.

LANGUAGE OF TEXTURE — MOLAS

Repetition and stacking of images creates visual surface texture, even with the use of smooth materials.

LESSON: ❧ As with a collage, assembly and detail is key to any finished design or piece of art. Final glue down will show what the Kuna intended. Through the layering of a single shape and use of color, depth and an intricate pattern is created.

❧ The end result is visual texture that the eye will perceive, but cannot necessarily be felt on the surface when touched.

ACTIVITY:

1. Final glue down of all layers of Kuna design can be achieved by mounting each layer with glue on a single sheet of paper. Additional surface markings can be added for detail.

2. Using small scraps of construction paper, cut small shapes to add to the center of the Molas design. This will create visual texture on the surface and additional interest.

3. Additional detail can be added through the use of colored pencils, pens and markers. The act of mark making, dotting or cross hatching can simulate a surface's finish or just create a pattern on the solid construction paper's images.

LANGUAGE OF LINE — BLIND DRAWING

Line is the building block for all form & shape.

LESSON:

ა Every form of art, whether it be drawing, sculpture or painting, relies on what the artist sees and how he/she interprets that image. Drawing is a skill that can be developed by linking what the eye observes with what the hand creates. Realizing this important connection is vital to any artist.

ა **Blind drawing** refers to creating art without looking at the paper or canvas as the artist draws or paints. This requires the artist to focus completely on his/her subject during the creative process.

ა To develop eye/hand coordination as it applies to the arts, certain skills need to be acquired. However, with practice it will become easy.

ACTIVITY:

1. Place a clean sheet of paper on a table or desk surface.

2. Select an object to draw. This object should be something within one's clear and un-obscured view.

3. Place a pencil or pen on the center of the paper surface.

4. Without ever stopping or removing pencil/pen from paper, draw exactly what is observed without looking at the paper. Let the eye be your guide and the hand be the actual extension of the pen/pencil.

5. Only upon sensing that all details have been included should the motion of the pen/pencil stop.
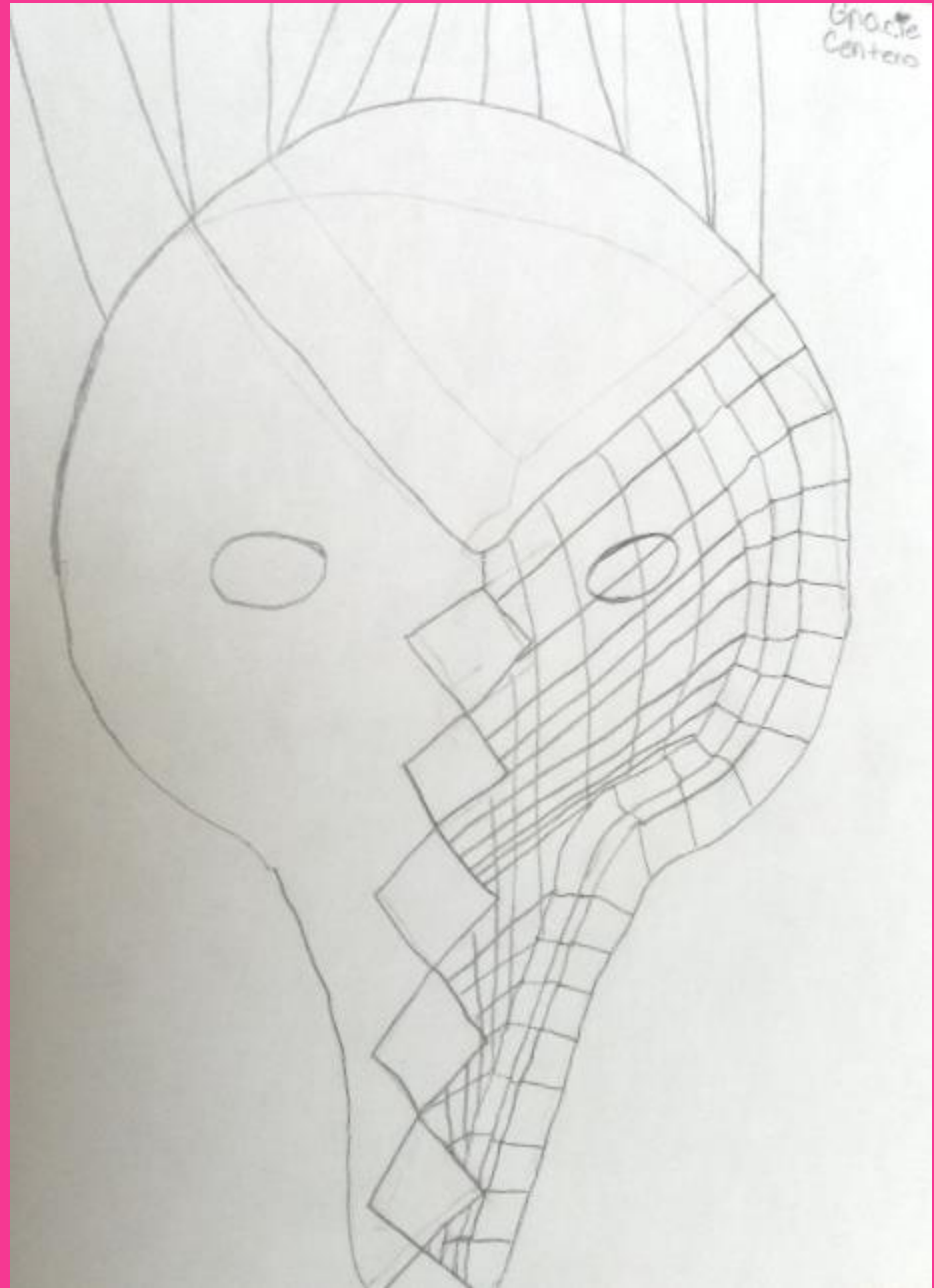
LANGUAGE OF COLOR — BLIND DRAWING

Use of color is a method to enhance any artist's creation.

LESSON:

ও The drawn image from the previous day may not be an identical copy to the actual subject matter, but this is expected. With practice the eye/hand coordination will continue to improve and the resulting art will become gradually more and more accurate. Blind drawing can be a more representational form of art as well. Even if not accurate in shape, the result can be unique to the artist.

ও Once again, color will help communicate the story that the artist is telling his/her audience. Since the artist is actually copying what he/she sees, the application of the correct and accurate color is an important part of this exercise. Colors selected should tell the viewer what the artist actually saw as the image was created.

ACTIVITY:

1. With crayons or markers, add color to refine the drawn image.

2. By adding colored lines over the outermost edges of the original pencil lines will define areas of the drawn object.

3. Areas of color should also be added to complete the object's shape.

LANGUAGE OF TEXTURE — BLIND DRAWING

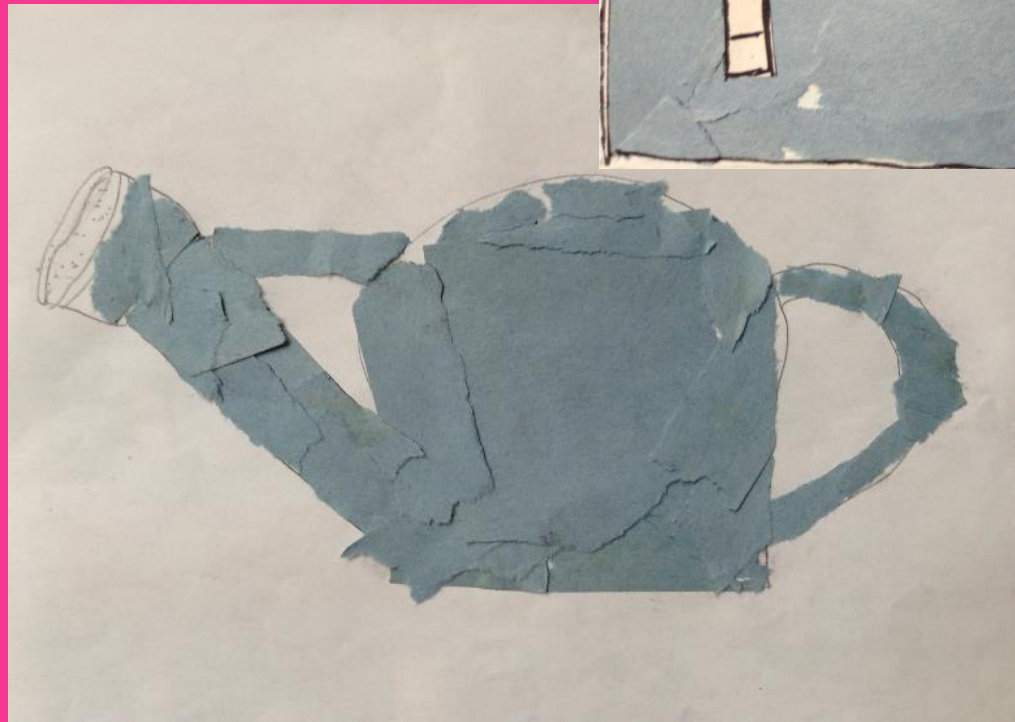Texture is a tool for artists to create a higher level of detail and completion in a work of art.
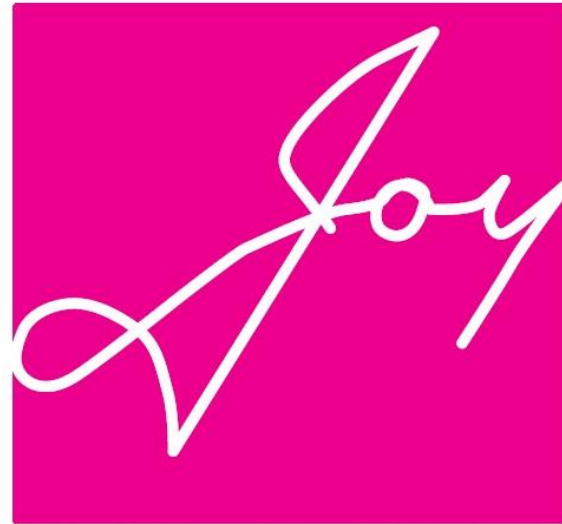
LESSON:

❧ **Texture**, both visual and tactile, adds a finishing touch to any work of art. This can be accomplished in several ways. Collage is often used as a method to show texture.

❧ **Collage** can be used with hand drawn images, magazine clippings, newspaper, text or even chunks of fabric. These materials can be applied to a drawing or even applied to a blank sheet of paper without a drawing underneath. The layering and stacking of images creates an image with greater depth than a drawing that is simply flat. Collage can be an accent to a work of art, or it can be a work of art in itself.

❧ Sometimes collage will even begin as a single image. Then as more and more images are added, a work of art simply develops without expected or anticipated results.

ACTIVITY:

1. Using the original blind drawing only as a guide, cut newspaper, magazine advertisements or fabric to replicate the drawn image.

2. A piece of colored or white paper will act as the background.

3. Cut pieces of paper or fabric to create a single image out of small pieces. Stacked in any position, the bits of paper and fabric create an image that resembles the previous blind drawing.

4. Once the basic shape is created using the first layer of paper/fabric, use a glue stick to attach those first pieces.

5. Continue to cut and layer new pieces with glue.

6. Each new layer should be glued to previous layer, to develop the image.