



Workshop in a Box

Item # 2013967

Masters in Plaster

Grades 1-12

Give dimension and texture to an original 2D image using only a few materials. These pieces of artwork were created to emulate works of master artists and give them actual depth and texture using the plaster medium Plast'r Craft®. These pieces are also a bit unusual by using a pizza box for the canvas. This creates a finished self-standing piece but also is excellent during the execution of the work, as it serves as an easel. The art works used as resources for this lesson included: Edward Hopper - Early Sunday Morning, Vincent van Gogh - Starry Night and Georgia O'Keeffe - Jimson Weed.



Materials in Kit: Enough for 10 participants

Item# 399398 Plast'r Craft®, 20 pounds

Item# 1572494 Sax® True Flow® Heavy-Bodied Acrylic Paint, Set of 6 Quarts

Item #2087627 Fiskars® Snap Off Utility Knife

You will also need:

- Scissors
- Tubs with water
- Corrugated Pizza Box, medium and large sizes shown above
- Paint Brushes (large assortment including tiny ones to get into the folds of the plaster)

Objectives

- Research the work of various artists to observe the use of the colors, depth and textures.
- Study the patterns, designs and textures found in the layering of the images in the piece and determine placement of those in the proper ratio.
- Learn and experience the process of layering and modeling of plaster strips using the Plast'r Craft® medium.
- Study the artist's use of color and develop their skills of color mixing and blending.

Directions:

1. Using the pizza box as a canvas, select the artwork and crop the original piece to allow for a square format, if necessary. This will allow a proper ratio in transferring the image to the box. Always keep the image being used close at hand.
2. The Plast'r Craft® comes in large strips that will need to be cut to size.
3. Make sure the pizza box is oriented so the back of it is being used as the canvas, with the opening at the bottom, and the hinge at the top.
4. If using a large or extra large box, put something inside the box in the middle to give it extra support during the use of the Plast'r Craft®. It can then be removed once the Plast'r Craft® is dry.
5. Cut plaster strips a bit longer than the size of the box to allow for overlap of the edges. Cut just enough to create a base layer on the bottom of the pizza box canvas.
6. Dip the strips of Plast'r Craft® into water following manufactures instructions. Only dip them enough to get them wet and wring them out a bit. Do not allow them to soak in water or all of the plaster will dissolve. Warm water will make the plaster harden quicker and cool water will allow for more working time.
7. After the base coat is applied, layer the Plast'r Craft® on the canvas to create the texture and depth of the piece being created. Other elements can be used under the Plast'r Craft® where a deeper relief is desired. For example, on the Van Gogh shown above, tissue pieces were crumpled up beneath the trees. On the Hopper shown above, rectangles of cardboard were used to create the façade of the building, before applying the Plast'r Craft® over them in flat sheets.
8. The piece does NOT need to be completed in one sitting or kept damp.
9. Once complete, set aside to dry. It will dry quickly to the touch but allow several days for it to dry thoroughly before painting.
10. Follow manufacture's instructions for painting. When using acrylic paint, a gel medium is recommended to extend the drying time. The plaster tends to absorb the first layer of acrylic so it dries very quickly. The gel medium allows more time to blend colors.
11. Once the piece is finished, display it with it's self-contained easel back. Make a hole in the back of the box to hang it or attach a wood float frame to the piece.

Cross Curricular: Art and Math

National Core Art Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

Content Standard #2: Using knowledge of structures and functions.