

# Art Look

## Painted Chair

Grade Level: 4-12

Lesson Plan and Artwork by Edwin Leary,  
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### Description:

Painted furniture was fashionable throughout many periods of art and many cultures. Chinese lacquered furniture, Renaissance furniture, Neo-Classical furniture and Swedish Gustavian furniture are just a few examples. Now 20th century to contemporary furniture incorporates many painted, assembled and decorative elements. This particular project gives students an opportunity to develop a style of painting to apply to a chair. The painted chair can be based on many artistic styles: Cubism, Figurative, Funk, New Image, Graffiti, Impressionism or other styles. This "Art Chair" can be used literally by the Art Chairperson at a school, auctioned at a state's Youth Art Month Exhibit or for a schools fund-raising project.

### Objectives:

- Students will formulate an idea through observing how time and place in culture influence different types of expression in art.
- Students will use different media and processes to apply creative and critical thinking skills to develop a functional and attractive style for decorating furniture.

### Materials:

- Director's Chair with White Canvas Back and Seat Panels or any other fabric or unfinished wood chair
  - \* Wood chairs that have been previously stained or varnished may prevent acrylic paint from adhering properly.
- Sax® True Flow® Acrylics, Medium-Bodied, 12-Pint Set (439304-705)
- Sax® True Flow® Acrylics, Heavy Bodied, 6-Color Set, 6.75 Tubes (408539-705)
- Sax® True Flow® Multi-Media Varnish, Gloss, Quart (403960-705)
- Reeves Painting Knives, Set of 6 (409376-705)
- Sax® True Flow® Bristilina Konex Brushes, Set of 6 (444587-705)
- Porcelain Butcher Tray Palettes, 11" x 15" (408937-705)
- Shiva® Paintstik Student Oil Colors, 12-Color Set (244689-705)
- Sax® Solid Drawing Pencils, 4B, Pkg. of 12 (406762-705)
- Sakura® Identi-Pens™, 8-Color Set (409401-705)

### Optional Materials:

- White Newsprint Paper, 30-Lbs., Ream, 9" x 12" (085596-705)

### Directions:

1. Find images of painted furniture from various times and places in library books or on the Internet. Discuss with your students how the culture of each piece influenced the design. Students may wish to sketch ideas for their chair on newsprint paper.
2. Remove canvas panels from chair.
3. Lightly sketch overall design on the seat and back of the canvas panels.
4. Apply thin coats of acrylics with painting knives, working from light to dark.
5. Create a center of interest by overlapping painting-knife and/or brush strokes.
6. Bring out highlights and center of interest with Shiva Paintstik Oil Pastels.
7. Have students sign their work with an Identi-Pen. Include title, name and year.
8. Let chair panels dry completely.
9. Apply Sax Multi-Media Varnish to chair panels. Allow to dry.
10. Slide canvas panels back onto the chair.
11. For added interest, apply designs to arms and legs. Seal with Sax Multi-Media Varnish.



**National Art Standards:**

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

Grades 5-8: Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

Grades 9-12, Proficient: Students conceive and create works of art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

Content Standard #3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

Grades 5-8: Students integrate visual, spatial and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.

Grades 9-12, Proficient: Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally and functionally and describe how these are related to history and culture.

Content Standard #4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Grades 5-8: Students analyze, describe and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art.

Grades 9-12, Proficient: Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of a work of art.