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Hands-On Project

Pastel Flowers

Goal

Create a still life of a vase of flowers in the Impressionist style.

Criteria

- Create the flowers with simple “brushstrokes” of color, without using outlines.
- Layer colors to create a feeling of depth.
- Place complementary colors side-by-side for vibrancy.

Materials

- Oil pastels
- Approx. 9 x 12 sheet of good quality pastel or charcoal paper
- Scratch paper to clean unwanted color off pastels

Procedure

1. Position your paper vertically. With a white or light colored pastel, lightly sketch a vase of flowers. Draw vase one-third up from bottom of vase.
2. Starting from the center and working outward, create flower petals with simple strokes. The pastel will not fill in all the indentations of the paper-this adds a feeling of texture.
3. Layer additional colors to create interest and depth in flowers.
4. Draw stems and leaves, again layering various colors.
5. Fill in vase with color. Add highlights to vase with white.
6. Pastels can be blended with fingers if desired to give the vase a smooth looking texture.
7. Fill in the horizon, or table surface, with color. Think about using a color complementary to the color of the vase. This can be done with a pastel with wrapper removed and held on its side.

NOTE: Drawing demonstration recommended to show kids:

1. How to sketch lightly.
2. How to create flower shapes without outlines.
3. How layering colors adds interest.
4. How to blend pastels with finger.