

Art Project Plan

Portraits

Based on the Art of Gustav Klimt

Project Author: Jane Stricker • Sponsor: Sargent Art • Grades: 3-5
Time: Three lessons, 45 minutes each

Project:

1. Introduce students to the Austrian artist, Gustav Klimt. Show examples of his work concentrating on his use of simplified stylized figures merged with patterned backgrounds. Identify and discuss what attracts the viewer's attention in each artwork and why. Discuss how pattern is used in the artwork.
2. Instruct students to create sketches from a photograph or student model. Remind them to use characteristics from the work of Gustav Klimt focusing on background techniques.
3. Have students create the final portrait sketch using chalk on a piece of 9 1/2" x 12 1/2" construction paper in a dark color. Encourage them to check for facial and body proportion. For younger students, a variation of this project would be to have students paste a face cut out from a photograph or magazine and then concentrate on the larger details of the body and background in their sketch.
4. Have students paint in large areas of their sketch and allow to dry.



Artist Bio:

Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) was born in Baumgarten, near Vienna, Austria. Early in his career he opened an independent studio specializing in the execution of mural paintings which he originally produced in the classical-realist style. He later began experimenting with fantastical imagery and bold, decorative styles, rebelling against the traditional academic art style and becoming part of the Art Nouveau (French for "New Art") movement. Klimt's works are characterized by his use of organic, ornamental shapes and patterns, and his use of gold and silver colors.

Materials:

(see recommendations on next page)

- KidsArt Fairs paper
- Construction paper in dark colors
- pencils
- chalk pastels
- metallic oil pastels
- acrylic paint
- liquid metals acrylic

Objective:

Students will utilize pattern and rendering techniques to create a portrait in the style of Gustav Klimt. Students will gain knowledge of early mosaic work which influenced his decorative portrait style.

Purpose: Students will study the work of Gustav Klimt. Students will identify significant trends in cultural and artistic movements influencing the development of his individual style.

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Project continued:

- Have students add pattern using oil pastels over the painted areas and fill in the background with patterns, ornaments, and metallic color using acrylics or liquid metals markers. The same pattern in the figure and background can be used, but students should change the size and color, darkness, or lightness.
- Ask students to use fine tip markers to enhance detail.
- When portraits are complete, have each artist affix their portrait within the window on the KidsArt Fairs paper canvas. Have them sign their work in the lower right-hand corner. Use the Signature Template as a guide to position the signature where it will be visible when framed.
- In small groups, students show their paintings to classmates and ask each other questions about the project.



Teacher-Prepared Sample Artwork in KidsArt Fairs Gallery-Style Frame

Applicable National Standards for Visual Arts Grades K-4:

- Content Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- Content Standard 2: Using knowledge of structures and functions
- Content Standard 3: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

Sargent Art Recommended Materials:

22-4124
Sargent Square Chalk Pastels



32-2007
Gallery Metallic Oil Pastels



22-1206
Liquid Metals Acrylic



22-2499
Sargent Art Acrylic Paint

