

An Illuminating Letter



Target Grade: 11

Goal (Terminal Objective): The students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Ancient Art of Manuscript Writing, using their talents and skills to create a completed illuminated letter design of their own.

Objective: Students will use one of their initials as a focal point to create an illuminated letter design painting similar to the Ancient Manuscript Writings they have observed.

National Standards:

Visual Arts Grades 9-12 Content Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

Visual Arts Grades 9-12 Content Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture

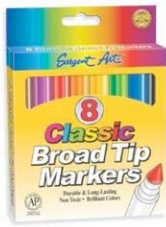
Visual Arts Grades 9-12 Content Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

Visual Arts Grades 9-12 Content Standard 6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines (**Social Studies and Literature Cross Curriculum Connection**)

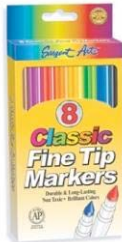
Purpose: To introduce students to the Ancient Art of Manuscript Writing through a brief summary of the art form used by the Monastic Scribes.

New Vocabulary: illumination, manuscript, Monastic, Scribes

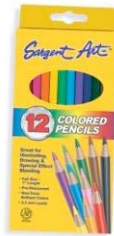
Materials:



22-1530



22-1540



22-7212



22-1506



22-1106

Time: Approx. 3-6 hours

Introduction and Motivation (Set): The educator will give a brief introduction of the Ancient Art of Manuscript Writing, emphasizing the illumination of the first letter. Using the resources below, examples may be studied by the students. (The illumination was most likely done through the art of gold leafing, which is still used today, and can be very costly. Thanks to Sargent Art, we can get a similar affect using their liquid Metal products!)

Instruction: The teacher will demonstrate how to lay out thumbnail sketches and how to transfer the best design to a larger paper.

Activities:

(1) Guided Practice:

1. The students will fold a 9"x12" paper into fourths, by folding in half widthwise and again in half across the length. They will open the paper and use the four spaces to sketch out four ideas using the first letter of their first name.
2. The students will choose the best design and lay out the colors using Sargent Arts Liquid Metal Markers, colored pencils, and fine tip markers.



3. The students will re-draw their design onto a new 9"x12" paper, adding a border using rulers and irregular curves when needed.



4. The students will paint their design using Sargent tempera and Liquid Metal tempera paints.



5. The students will complete their designs by adding details using Sargent Arts Liquid Metal and Fine Tip Markers

(2) Independent Practice and Check for Understanding: The teacher will help guide the students in deciding which design to choose and will make sure that the colors they have chosen do not take away from the illuminated letter (the color yellow used on the paint bottle in the example took the focal point away from the letter S so it was changed).

(3) Closure: After the completion of the project, the students will meet with the teacher to discuss what they learned and to evaluate if the objectives were met.

Evaluation:

Level One -- The completed design successfully met all the original objectives showing the student's understanding of letter illumination, showed creativity, was visually interesting, and was executed with quality and was exceptional.

Level Two -- The completed design successfully met all the original objectives showing the student's understanding of letter illumination, showed creativity, was visually interesting, and was executed with quality.

Level Three -- The completed design barely met all the original objectives, showed little understanding of letter illumination, showed very little creativity, was not very visually interesting, and was not executed with quality.

Level Four -- The completed design did not meet the original objectives, it showed no understanding of letter illumination, showed a lack creativity, was not visually interesting, and lacked quality.

Extension: The teacher may choose to have them do a mini letter illumination, along with a poem, phrase etc., in calligraphy, or they may illuminate the first letter of their name and include their name in the project (size of paper will vary).

Resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuscript_illumination

<http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2005/miniature/southitaly.shtm>

<http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/seeking/>

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