

Lesson 5: Texture

To the teacher:

Sculptors, textile and fabric artists, bookmakers, ceramacist and others think a lot of how to engage a viewers sense of touch. Even when their art is not meant to be touched, artists put a lot of thought into creating different kinds of textures. To me it only makes sense that the students are actually touching and working with something they can feel in this lesson. If you decide not to use this idea do something that engage's the students sense of touch. You may have noticed that I like to get students to observe other artist's work. I think this is good because it validates a concept while also giving students some sense of art history.

Lesson Objective:

- Students will understand the importance of texture in art by evaluating the work of other artists
- Students will practice incorporating texture into their own work by completing an activity.

Materials:

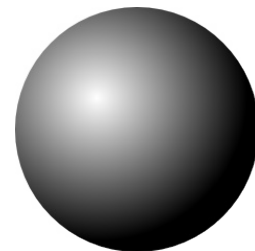
- Large sheets of paper (drawing paper would be fine, although something thicker like watercolor or acrylic painting paper would be ideal.)
- Finger paints
- Sands, shreds of paper, toothpicks.
- Pre-maid student groups (4 in a group) and assign a leader to each group
- paper plates for palettes
- Famous paintings for replication

Key Terms:

- Texture
- Actual Texture
- Implied texture

Lesson Activity

- Remind the students that we have studied line, shape, and value. This is all good, but what is missing?
- Show a picture similar to the one below. Clearly it is computer generated and is missing texture.
- Texture is the look or feel of a surface. Since almost everything has texture, it is important to incorporate it into our artwork.
- Texture can also help convey the message of an artists.
 - Think for example of a girl on a rustic wooden swing. This wood would probably look smooth and pleasant.
 - A picture of Jesus carrying the cross on the other hand would probably depict the cross as being rough and painful. This would only make sense.



- Ask: How is texture shown in this picture?
 - Do you feel like you could feel the picture. Does this make it more appealing? Why or why not?
 - Does it make the picture more realistic?
 - How is the texture of the dog's fur different from the background? Notice how this makes the dog the clear central point of the painting.



George Stubbs
White Poodle

- Ask: How do the leaves look like they would feel in this painting?
 - How does the cloth look like it would feel?
 - How does the artists achieve this difference?
 - Students may not know, but have them discuss this.



Martin Heade
Giant Magnolias on a Blue Velvet Cloth

- Ask: What is the texture of the pears? How is this different from the basket?
 - Is it important to show this difference? Why or why not?
 - How do you think the artist showed the difference?
- How did these artists achieve this sense of texture in their work?
- Artists achieve texture in many ways. A few ways are as follows:
 - They brush paint on in watery strokes and thick drips
 - They put paint down in short, fat dabs and long, sleek strokes
 - They twirl their brushes in thick swirls to make circles and curls
 - They apply paint in thick layers that stick out from the canvas
 - They put different colors on top of each other.
 - They mix in sand, dirt, or other materials into the paint
 - They add white highlights to make things look shiny
 - They scratch through paint to show colors underneath.



Joseph Decker
Green Plums